



SWITCHING OFF BACTERIAL RESISTANCE

## **BioVersys with the support of the University of Lille and GlaxoSmithKline to develop preclinical candidates in tuberculosis**

Basel (Switzerland), Lille (France), May 27 2014 – BioVersys announced today a collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to develop a preclinical candidate against tuberculosis (TB), funded by the Wellcome Trust. The collaboration will utilize BioVersys' award-winning innovative TRIC technology that enables the discovery of Transcriptional Regulator Inhibitory Compounds. The project, built upon a very long history of TB research in Lille, will advance molecules that reactivate the efficacy of established TB therapies.

The University of Lille consortium comprises leading scientists in TB research and drug discovery from the Institut Pasteur de Lille, Université Lille 2, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). The teams of Professors Nicolas Willand, Alain Baulard and Benoît Deprez have significantly contributed to the compounds relevant to the project and were the first to discover the target regulator in TB.

The Wellcome Trust is funding the development activities as part of a pre-existing collaboration with GSK towards finding treatments for diseases largely affecting low-income countries. The financial terms of the agreement are not disclosed.

Marc Gitzinger, CEO of BioVersys commented: "This collaboration with GSK is a validation of the innovative and relevant nature of the TRIC technology. We look forward to collaborating with GSK's scientists and the French consortium to advance our development activities." Dr. Alain Baulard, Director of Research, Institut Pasteur de Lille: "This project is a major development of our drug discovery on rejuvenation of Ethionamide activity, a concept that we have been advancing since 2001." Benoît Deprez, Professor of Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Université de Lille 2: "We are proud to bring our medicinal chemistry expertise to this world-class consortium."

Richard Seabrook, Head of Business Development at the Wellcome Trust said: "Tuberculosis is an increasing threat to health with its highest prevalence in low-income countries. This collaboration enables us to continue our long-term commitment to treating diseases in these settings by supporting new drug technologies and aiding the development of effective therapies in an area of unmet medical need".

### **Tuberculosis – a neglected disease, a global threat**

Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death globally from a bacterial infectious disease. It is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis which is present (mostly in a latent form) in nearly two thirds of the world's population. The disease was believed to be on the decline for many years however, WHO reports show there are nine million new cases of active TB every year, and it is estimated that about 1.6 million people die annually from the disease. Moreover, poor compliance

with existing treatments has led to the emergence of drug-resistance, which has been exacerbated by the a lack of new treatments in the last 40 years.

### **About The Wellcome Trust**

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. It supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. The Trust's breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests. [www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk)

### **About BioVersys**

BioVersys AG is a privately held Swiss biopharmaceutical company that focuses on research and development of small molecules which switch off drug resistance within bacterial pathogens and thereby restore the efficacy of approved antibiotics. The company was founded in 2008 as a Spin-off of the ETH-Zurich and has profound technological expertise that is based on solid IP. BioVersys has built up an innovative technology to screen and develop drugs that act more upstream than conventional antibiotics. BioVersys' compounds will be used in combination with an existing antibiotic, thereby renewing efficacy as well as intellectual property for the established drug. For its TB project, BioVersys has joined forces with the University of Lille consortium in 2013, by agreeing on a full licensing and collaboration agreement. BioVersys was supported by Eisei GmbH in this transaction. [www.bioversys.com](http://www.bioversys.com)

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