

After nominating a preclinical candidate for the treatment of leukemias

Oryzon assigns Dr. Xavier Luria as Non-Executive Director of Medical and Regulatory Affairs

Dr. Luria is a renowned expert in the clinical development of pharmaceuticals and has been Senior Executive of the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

The collaboration is focused on the clinical development of Oryzon's selective LSD1 inhibitor for the treatment of acute leukemia.

The company will present its LSD1 inhibitor program on hematological cancers at the annual Bio-2012 International Convention, which takes place on June 18-21 in Boston.

Barcelona, June 10th, 2012. - Oryzon announces the incorporation to its expert's team of Dr. Xavier Luria as Non-Executive Director of Medical and Regulatory Affairs.

Dr. Luria had been Head of Sector for Safety and Efficacy of Medicines at the European Medicines Agency for almost 7 years and is a renowned international expert in the clinical development of drugs.

Dr. Luria's main mission will be to ensure a rapid and efficient transition of Oryzon's antitumor candidate from preclinical development to clinical phases I and II. The drug is a selective inhibitor of the epigenetic enzyme LSD1, which has been recently validated as a therapeutic target for the treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). This drug does not only cause differentiation of leukemic cells, but it also leads to the selective programmed death (apoptosis) of leukemic totipotent cells (stem-cells) without having any effect on healthy progenitor blood cells.

The program is currently in preclinical development (regulatory safety studies) and it is expected to be ready for the first tests in humans in early 2013. A program overview will be presented at the Bio-2012 International Convention (Boston, June 18-21) with the title "*A new epigenetic target for Leukemias: LSD1 inhibitors selectively act on leukemia stem cells* " on June 20th at 3:15 pm local time in the Patriots Room (room 104B).

Dr. Xavier Luria (Barcelona/Spain, 1957) is a prestigious professional who had been Head of Clinical Research for 5 years and later Medical Director for 10 years at the Spanish pharmaceutical company Almirall. Subsequently, since 2005, he had been Head of Sector for Safety and Efficacy of Medicines at the European Medicines Agency for almost 7 years and is a renowned international expert in clinical drug development. Dr. Luria's specialized in internal medicine and received additional training in pharmacological medicine and biostatistics at the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (Spain). Furthermore, he did postgraduate studies in clinical pharmacology, drug development, and regulatory affairs at Tufts University School of Medicine, in Boston (USA). Apart from serving as a consultant and external expert for companies and public organizations, Dr. Luria is Faculty member at the University of California, San Francisco, and Lecturer at IESE Business School.

About Oryzon

Founded in 2000, Oryzon (www.oryzon.com) has one of the most complete technological platforms for biomarker identification in Europe. With a strong specialization in genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics, the company identifies biomarkers for a variety of oncologic and neurodegenerative diseases.

The company has a powerful platform for biomarker and target validation which includes technologies such as RNAi, microarrays, phage display and a structural genomic platform with a fragment screening approach (NMR and X ray crystallography). Oryzon develops new drugs and monoclonal antibodies against targets identified in its biomarker discovery programs; but also develops diagnostic products.

Recently, the company announced its decision to enter in preclinical development with its first two drug candidates: a first-in-class bi-specific Lysine Specific Demethylase 1 (LSD1) and Monoamine Oxidase B (MAO-B) inhibitor for the treatment of Huntington disease (HD), a neurodegenerative disorder currently without treatment; and a mono-specific LSD1 inhibitor for the treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

GynEC®-DX is a good example of the Diagnostic activity of the company. This product was discovered after 5 years of intense research. It is a signature of 5 genes differentially expressed that are highly accurate to determine cancer status in uterine aspirates and when combined with pathology on aspirates has a Negative predictive value of 99,6% according to the results obtained in a recent multi-centric double blind prospective study. Commercialization of this product that has been developed jointly with Laboratorio Reig-Jofré is expected in July 2012.

Other launches under way

Oryzon entered into a partnership in the field of molecular diagnostics with New Zealand firm Pacific Edge Ltd in 2011. According to the agreement, Oryzon holds an exclusive license to market, in some European countries, the *Cxbladder*® test, which detects bladder cancer in urine. Oryzon will run the *Cxbladder* test in its Clinical Analysis Lab, which was authorized by the Catalanian Government last year. *"The central lab is the axis and launching platform of our diagnostic and personalized medicine division"*, explains Carlos Buesa. *"We have shown that our biomarker discovery platform is capable of developing personalized medicine products and bringing them to market. The goal is to become the leader in molecular diagnostics in Spain and to partner our therapeutic programs with specialized pharmaceutical companies."*

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