ACESION PHARMA APPOINTS EXPERIENCED CLINICAL LEADER CHRISTINA SYLVEST AS SVP ACUTE CARDIOVERSION

COPENHAGEN, Denmark - Acesion Pharma, a pharmaceutical company developing novel first-in-class drugs to treat atrial fibrillation (AF), announced today that it has appointed Christina Sylvest, MSc Pharm, as Senior Vice President Acute Cardioversion.

Christina Sylvest has a track record of driving successful clinical development and development programmes. Her appointment comes as Acesion accelerates the preclinical development of its first development candidate for the acute cardioversion of AF.

Christina Sylvest has more than 20 years experience of clinical operations and project management leading global and local Phase I-IV clinical programmes with accountability to CEOs and Boards of Directors. Prior to joining Acesion, Sylvest was responsible for Veloxis Pharmaceuticals A/S (previously Life Cycle Pharma A/S) Phase I-IV clinical operational activities both in Europe and in the US. Prior to Veloxis, Sylvest worked in various management roles in clinical development at Rheoscience A/S, Novo Nordisk A/S and Ferring Pharmaceuticals A/S.

Frans Wuite, CEO of Acesion Pharma commented
‘We are delighted to welcome Christina to the company at a pivotal time in its evolution. We will soon progress our first development candidate for acute cardioversion of atrial fibrillation and our focus now is to move this programme forward towards human clinical evaluation. Christina will spearhead the progress of our programme in acute cardioversion as Acesion enters this exciting phase of rapid development.’

Acesion’s development candidates have shown early promise in a number of animal studies demonstrating that they are effective anti-arrhythmics that act rapidly in bringing the heart from AF back to normal heart rhythm.

Background

Acesion Pharma is a Danish pharmaceutical company founded in 2011 and based in Copenhagen. Acesion Pharma develops more efficacious and safe drugs for the treatment of atrial fibrillation (AF). AF is the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia and is characterized by an irregular and abnormally high contraction frequency in the upper chambers of the heart, the atria. It mainly affects the elderly population and it is estimated that more than 4.5 million people in the EU and up to 6 million people in the US have AF. AF is associated with impaired quality of life, increased rate of hospitalization, and increased risk of stroke and death. As a consequence of the increase in age of the population and in lifestyle related diseases, the
numbers of AF patients are expected to rise significantly, with an associated increase in the economic burden of AF.

AF is often treated with electrical shock (DC cardioversion), delivered during general anesthesia, and/or medical treatment, which bring the heart back to its normal sinus rhythm. Existing drug therapies have only limited effect and/or are associated with risk of serious adverse effects, including risk of acutely life-threatening ventricular arrhythmia. There exist therefore a high unmet need for developing more efficacious and safe drugs for the medical treatment of AF.

Acesion’s approach centres on the inhibition of SK channels, ion channels with relevance for regulating heart rhythm and which constitute a new and promising principle for the treatment of AF. Acesion Pharma aims to develop first-in-class SK channel inhibitors as more efficacious and safe treatments of AF.

Equity investors in Acesion Pharma include Novo Seeds, the early stage investment group of Novo A/S, Wellcome Trust and Broadview Ventures.

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