ACESION PHARMA APPOINTS EXPERIENCED CMC EXECUTIVE BREIAN KNUDSEN AS VP CMC

COPENHAGEN, Denmark - Acesion Pharma, a pharmaceutical company developing novel first-in-class drugs to treat atrial fibrillation (AF), announced today that it has appointed Breian Knudsen, MSc Pharm, as Vice President Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls.

Breian has extensive experience in developing and managing the manufacture of drug substance and drug product at various companies including Leo Pharma, Ferrosan, Novo Nordisk, LifeCycle Pharma and Veloxis Pharmaceuticals.

Before joining Acesion Pharmaceuticals, Breian was Vice President Technical Operations at Veloxis being responsible for supplying Veloxis and its business partners with drug products including clinical trial materials and commercial product manufactured according to GMP. He is very familiar with selecting and managing contract manufacturing organizations as well as managing relationships with external partners.

Breian has a Master of Science degree in Pharmacy from the Royal Danish School of Pharmacy.

Frans Wuite, CEO of Acesion Pharma commented

‘We are delighted to welcome Breian to the company at a pivotal time in its evolution. His knowhow will be a great asset for us as we are now moving our development programme forward towards human clinical evaluation.

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 safer 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 anaesthesia, 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 cardiac adverse effects, including risk of acutely life-threatening ventricular arrhythmia. There a high unmet need exists for developing more efficacious and safer 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 safer 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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Contact Details

Frans Wuite (CEO) + 41 79 340 8218
fgw@acesionpharma.com

Ingelise Saunders (Chairman of the Board) + 45 2020 3687
Ingelise.saunders@mail.dk

For more information see www.acesionpharma.com