PRESS RELEASE

21 November 2023 08:00:00 CET

Saniona promotes Kv7 epilepsy compound to candidate selection phase

Saniona (OMX: SANION), a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company, today announced that it has initiated the candidate selection phase with a proprietary subtype selective frontrunner molecule from the Kv7 lead optimization program for epilepsy. The compound has a unique selectivity profile and represents a potential new generation of effective and well tolerated epilepsy medicines.

“It is very satisfying that after only one year in lead optimization, we can initiate the final testing with the aim of selecting a candidate for preclinical development. The Kv7 channel field is one of the most promising target areas for the treatment of epilepsy, and we are experiencing great commercial interest in our program", says Thomas Feldthus, CEO of Saniona.

“Our Kv7 compound has a truly new and innovative mode-of-actions and selectivity profile, and the rapid identification of the compound was only possible due to our very robust research platform, IonBaseTM, characterized by fast turn-around chemistry, biological testing, database integration and IP-protection. I am convinced that our innovative Kv7 compound profile represents a new generation of effective and well tolerated epilepsy medicines with potential for use in other brain disorders including depression and bipolar disorder,” said Palle Christophersen, EVP Research.

Epilepsy, a brain disorder characterized by recurrent seizures, affects millions of people worldwide. There is considerable unmet need since about 30 percent of the patients are unresponsive to current medicines.

Kv7 channels mediate potassium ion transport across the cell membrane of neurons, which decreases the likelihood of generating uncontrolled nerve impulses. Activators of Kv7 channels are therefore very effective in dampening overactive neurons and thus prevent the generation of epileptic seizures. Mutations in Kv7 channels containing the Kv7.2 and Kv7.3 subunits are the second most common cause of inherited severe childhood epilepsies, which demonstrate their importance in controlling nerve cell activity.

The non-selective Kv7 activator retigabine has provided both clinical and commercial proof-of-concept for treatment of patients with resistant focal onset seizures. Retigabine has also shown anti-epileptic effect and developmental improvement in smaller investigator-driven studies with children with loss-of-function mutations in Kv7.2. However, retigabine has been withdrawn from the market due to compound specific and non-target related side-effects.

The Kv7 channel family comprise five subtypes, of which channels consisting of Kv7.2 and Kv7.3 subunits are selectively expressed in the brain. The Saniona program focuses on development of subtype selective Kv7.2/Kv7.3 activators, thus avoiding retigabine´s troublesome side effects on the CNS and urinary system, which caused a high drop-out rate in the clinical studies and eventually resulted in quite low adherence to the drug despite good efficacy.

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About Saniona
Saniona is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of medicines modulating ion channels. Saniona's most advanced candidate, tesofensine, has progressed towards regulatory approval for obesity by Saniona's partner Medix. Saniona is advancing four product candidates including Tesomet™ and three ion channel modulators SAN711, SAN903 and SAN2219. Tesomet™ has progressed to mid-stage clinical trials for rare eating disorders. SAN711 has completed Phase 1 for epilepsy. SAN903 is ready for Phase 1 for inflammatory and fibrotic disorders. SAN2219 is in preclinical development for epilepsy. Saniona has research and development partnerships with Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH, Productos Medix, S.A de S.V, AstronauTx Limited and Cephagenix ApS. Saniona is based in Copenhagen, and listed on Nasdaq Stockholm Small Cap (OMX: SANION). Read more at **www.saniona.com**.

This information is information that Saniona AB (publ) is obliged to make public pursuant to the EU Market Abuse Regulation. The information was submitted for publication, through the agency of the contact persons set out above, at 2023-11-21 08:00 CET.

Attachments
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