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Ambrx, Zhejiang, WuXi to develop cancer drug in China

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Singapore: US-based Ambrx and China-based Zhejiang Medicine (ZMC) announced that they have formed a collaboration to develop and commercialize ARX788, Ambrx's most advanced internally developed site-specific antibody drug conjugate (ADC) targeting Her2-positive breast cancer.

Under the agreement, Ambrx and ZMC will continue the development of ARX788, with ZMC bearing the ongoing development cost. ZMC will receive commercial rights in China while Ambrx retains commercial rights outside of China and receives royalties on sales of the product in China. ZMC will manufacture the product to world-class standards for clinical and commercial supplies on a global basis. WuXi PharmaTech will provide integrated services for ARX788, including the development and manufacturing of the toxin, antibody and ADC, pre-clinical development and clinical trials.

Dr Lawson Macartney, CEO, Ambrx, said that, "This collaboration allows Ambrx to further extend our pipeline of ADCs and gain access to the China market through our partnership with ZMC. Our experience with site-specific ADC technology has shown that we have the potential to create best-in-class therapeutic candidates, and we look forward to advancing ARX788 into the clinic to understand its full potential."

Dr Chunbo Li, chairman, Zhejiang Medicine, commented that, "We are honored to partner with Ambrx, a leading biotech company, in ADC drugs. We will work with WuXi PharmaTech to accelerate the development and commercialization of ARX788 in China to bring benefits to Her2-positive cancer patients. The partnership will help ZMC undertake pioneering work in the development of monoclonal antibodies and ADCs. The partnership will also help ZMC establish long-term and mutually beneficial relationships with leading global companies and advance our position in the biopharmaceutical industry."

Dr Ge Li, chairman and CEO, WuXi PharmaTech, said that, "Our collaboration with Ambrx and ZMC on ARX788 is another example of how WuXi's comprehensive, integrated, open-access R&D services platform enables our partners to develop innovative products efficiently and cost-effectively to benefit the world's patients. We are very pleased to offer our partners integrated services at global standards ranging from toxins to antibodies, from CMC development to pre-clinical studies, from regulatory strategy to clinical trials."