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Novo Nordisk explores liver cell targets with Dicerna

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Enter Agreement to Discover and Develop RNAi Therapies for Liver-Related Cardio-Metabolic Diseases

US based Dicerna™ Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Denmark headquartered Novo Nordisk A/S have announced an agreement to discover and develop novel therapies for the treatment of liver-related cardio-metabolic diseases using Dicerna's proprietary GalXC™ RNAi platform technology.

The collaboration plans to explore more than 30 liver cell targets and may deliver multiple clinical candidates for disorders including chronic liver disease, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), type 2 diabetes, obesity, and rare diseases. Dicerna will conduct and fund discovery and preclinical development to clinical candidate selection for each liver cell target, and Novo Nordisk will be responsible for all further development.

The agreement represents a significant investment by Novo Nordisk to secure access to Dicerna's proprietary GalXC RNAi platform, which complements its existing technology base. The collaboration provides Novo Nordisk with the capability to inhibit hepatocyte targets involved in disease regulation and has the potential to generate a number of clinical development candidates.

Under the terms of the agreement, Dicerna will receive:

- An upfront payment of $175 million.
- A $50 million equity investment in Dicerna at a premium.
- $25 million annually during each of the first three years of the collaboration, contingent on Dicerna delivering RNAi molecules for a defined number of targets.
- Up to $357.5 million per target in development, regulatory, and commercialization milestone payments, plus tiered royalties on product sales ranging from the mid-single-digits to mid-teens.