BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences
ASIA EDITION

BI partners with Enleofen to develop fibrotic disease therapies

January 10, 2020 | News

To Develop First-in-Class Anti-IL-11 Therapies



Boehringer Ingelheim and Singapore based Enleofen Bio Pte. Ltd. (Enleofen) have announced the acquisition of worldwide exclusive rights to Enleofen's preclinical interleukin-11 (IL-11) platform by Boehringer Ingelheim to develop first-in-class therapies across a broad range of fibro-inflammatory diseases.

The new partnership combines Boehringer Ingelheim's leading expertise and comprehensive pipeline in fibrotic diseases with Enleofen's world-leading expertise in IL-11 biology and the company's extensive range of therapeutic antibodies targeting this pathway.

IL-11 is a cytokine, a protein certain cells of the body use to communicate, and plays a key role in fibro-inflammatory conditions. Blocking IL-11 action has been shown to inhibit disease across many organs (liver, lung, kidney, retina, bowel, heart and skin). In preclinical studies, antibody-based IL-11 antagonists were able to prevent and reverse inflammation and fibrosis, and restore organ function.

Enleofen is a spin out company from the National Heart Centre Singapore (NHCS) at SingHealth and Duke-NUS Medical School under the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre (AMC), Singapore and exclusively licensed a suite of patents and number of antibody products when it was founded in 2017, from the AMC.

Subsequent to this, Enleofen has built an extensive anti-IL-11 antibody platform and advanced its drug development programs towards the clinic. Boehringer Ingelheim will now develop this platform further and plans to work jointly with scientists at the AMC to accelerate the platform into clinical development. The initial focus will be on novel therapies for patients with NASH and ILDs, two of Boehringer Ingelheim's core disease focus areas, with a potential to expand into further fibro-inflammatory conditions based on IL-11's central role in disease.