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Fosun Pharma and AriBio join hands to develop AR1001 for treatment of Alzheimer's Disease

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AR1001 is a best-in-class, once-daily oral phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor with disease-modifying potential



Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical (Group) and South Korea-based AriBio Co., a biopharmaceutical company focused on neurodegenerative diseases, have jointly announced the signing of an exclusive global option agreement for the development, registration, manufacturing and commercialisation of AR1001, an innovative drug candidate for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

The transaction adopts an "option fee plus license payment" structure. Fosun Pharma will pay AriBio a $60 million option fee and retains the right to decide whether to exercise the option within the agreed exercise period. Upon exercise of the option, Fosun Pharma will pay up to $180 million in upfront and regulatory milestone payments. Sales milestone payments will be triggered when annual net sales of the licensed product reach at least $2.5 billion.

AR1001 is a best-in-class, once-daily oral phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor with disease-modifying potential being developed for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. It is currently being evaluated in POLARIS-AD (NCT05531526), a global Phase 3 clinical trial for early AD.

The trial has enrolled more than 1,500 patients across the United States, Europe, China, South Korea, and other countries and regions. Enrollment was completed in 2025, and top-line results are anticipated in 2026.

AR1001 has demonstrated therapeutic effects through multiple mechanisms, including neuroprotection, inhibition of tau phosphorylation, suppression of inflammatory responses, and improvement of cerebral blood flow. Preclinical and clinical data to date indicate a favorable safety profile, blood-brain barrier penetration, and potential therapeutic benefit in patients with early AD, ranging from mild cognitive impairment to mild dementia.

This agreement further deepens and expands the successful prior collaboration, under which Fosun Pharma secured rights to develop, register, manufacture and commercialise AR1001 in Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macao as well as in ten designated ASEAN countries.

With thiss agreement, the partnership is extended to global markets, including major regions such as the United States, Europe and Japan.