

## Novartis partners with Mereo BioPharma to enhance novel drug portfolio

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### Novartis, Mereo BioPharma to co-develop rare disease drugs



**Singapore:** Novartis has partnered with UK based Mereo BioPharma to develop compounds including BPS-804, to improve bone density in brittle bone syndrome, an orphan disease; BCT-197 for acute exacerbations in COPD, and BGS-649 for obese men with hypogonadotropic hypogonadism to normalize testosterone levels.

Novartis will have an equity stake in Mereo and will share in the success of the development of these compounds, including a share on milestones and royalties on future commercial sales.

"We are pleased that through this deal with Mereo we have found a way to work together to bring these valued innovations to patients," said Mr David Epstein, head, Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

Mereo is a recently formed specialty biopharmaceutical company based in the UK that focuses on the acquisition and development of innovative medicines, particularly in rare and specialist disease areas, through the acquisition of validated, mid stage development programs.