

Qpex Biopharma, Bii Bio target MDR infections

October 30, 2019 | News

Qpex grants license to its current product portfolio in greater China territories to Bii Biosciences



Qpex Biopharma, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery and development of innovative anti-infective therapies, has announced that it has entered into a multi-product collaboration with Bii Biosciences to develop and commercialize Qpex's portfolio in China of potentially best-in-class therapies to treat a range of multi-drug resistant gram-negative infections.

"We are thrilled to be working together with a team that shares our vision and dedication to address the global antimicrobial resistance problem," said Michael Dudley, Pharm.D., President and CEO of Qpex Biopharma. "Bii Bio's depth of understanding in this field and their unique, cross-regional operating model make them the ideal collaborator in bringing our treatments to this important region where endemic drug-resistance problems can be well addressed by our portfolio."

The portfolio includes the following investigational products:

- OMNIvance: an intravenous-administered, beta-lactamase inhibitor (BLI) based product that may provide best-in-class coverage of *Acinetobacter* species, *Enterobacteriaceae*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, including carbapenem-resistant strains
- ORAvance: an orally-administered BLI combination for the treatment of multi-drug resistant gram-negative infections in outpatient settings, or to allow hospitalized patients to switch from IV to oral therapy
- Next-generation polymyxin: an IV-administered, targeted spectrum synthetic polymyxin with an enhanced therapeutic profile designed to address highly resistant infections caused by *Pseudomonas* and *Acinetobacter*

OMNivance and ORAvance use Qpex's novel ultra-broad-spectrum beta-lactamase inhibitor QPX7728 that inhibits both serine and metallo beta-lactamases, and restores the activity of multiple IV and oral beta-lactam antibiotics against drug-resistant gram-negative pathogens.

"The higher level of antibiotic resistance is a very serious problem in China and the spread of super bugs crossing borders is a recognized global threat," said Zhi Hong, Ph.D., co-founder and CEO of Bii Bio. "We are delighted to join forces with Qpex to advance its portfolio of medicines that will help address this public health threat and complements our overall infectious disease strategy in China."

Under the terms of the agreement, Bii Biosciences will obtain a license to develop, manufacture, and commercialize the portfolio in greater China, which includes Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and the People's Republic of China. Bii Biosciences will make an upfront payment, as well as success-based development, regulatory and commercial milestone payments, and share in the costs of a global development program. Qpex Biopharma will also receive tiered royalties on sales in the Bii Bio territory.