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ASIA EDITION

Menarini inks Ã¢â??Â¬5.5 M deal with Astellas for rheumatoid arthritis treatment in Taiwan & few South East Asian markets

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Menarini Asia-Pacific has entered into a long-term exclusive licensing partnership with Japanese firm Astellas Pharma for the development, manufacturing and commercialisation of the orally administered Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor Smyraf 50 mg and 100 mg tablets in Taiwan for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Smyraf has been approved in Taiwan and has patent protection for composition of matter until 2032.

Subject to the terms of the agreement, Astellas will receive total payments of up to €5.5 million including upfront and milestone payments. In addition, Menarini will pay Astellas a high-single digit percentage royalties on net sales of Smyraf. Menarini will have an option to extend the rights to select South-East Asian markets.

Smyraf was developed and is currently marketed in Japan by Astellas and is indicated for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (including prevention of structural joint damage) in patients who have an inadequate response to conventional therapies.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic autoimmune disorder that primarily affects the joints, causing inflammation, pain, and potential joint damage. With an estimated prevalence of 287.0 per 100,000 persons in Taiwan, rheumatoid arthritis is acknowledged as a significant health problem, and efforts are being made to enhance its diagnosis, treatment, and management amidst an ageing population in the region.