Bio-Modeling Systems and Aepodia sign a strategic R&D collaboration to decipher the Fibromyalgia & chronic facial pain mechanisms to bring novel therapeutic strategies faster to patients.

Paris, France and Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium – December 3, 2013: Bio-Modeling Systems (BMSystems) and Aepodia have decided to combine their respective competences. Conscious of the urgent needs to significantly improve and accelerate knowledge and treatments in the realm of specific pains, where the challenges are considerable and therapeutic responses non satisfactory, the partners have launched an innovative research program which combines the scientific, combined products development and clinical know-how of the research teams attached to Aepodia and the heuristic, non-mathematical (CADI™) modeling and scientific talents of BMSystems' team of biologists.

More specifically, Bio-Modeling Systems and Aepodia have started to construct two new CADI™ models that describe and explain the Fibromyalgia and chronic facial pain mechanisms. The purpose of this collaboration is to open new avenues that will be decisive for the understanding, the diagnosis and the treatment of severe pains. The A1 phase of this program is entirely self-financed by the partners, revealing their confidence in their capacity to jointly identify and characterize mechanisms that will lead quicker to specific combined therapies to the patients.

The scientific program is placed under the shared leadership of Dr. D.Gossen, co-founder and CSO of Aepodia, and Dr. François Iris, founder and CSO of Bio-Modeling Systems.

Pain, a major, yet severely under-estimated component of public health, needs novel, disruptive conceptual frameworks that can drive the renewal and the evolution of therapies.

Fibromyalgia is a widespread chronic musculoskeletal pain and fatigue disorder for which etiology is not well characterized. It is notoriously difficult to diagnose and the symptoms can be confused with other disorders (such as rheumatoid arthritis, or chronic fatigue syndrome). Nevertheless, it is estimated based on current method of diagnosis, that the one-year prevalence in the seven major markets is around 2% and the estimated fibromyalgia population in this geography is about 17 million.

Pain drug market is a 35 billion market worldwide, which was growing year after year. During the last 5 years, the growth is less pronounced with 1.8 % per year till 2026. Nevertheless, chronic pain (including fibromyalgia) and cancer pain are foreseen to increase (+60% 2008 and 2018).

About Bio-Modeling Systems (BMSystems):

Bio-Modeling Systems, an innovative company founded in 2004, is the first and, to date, only company to successfully create in-silico heuristic models validated in-vivo. BMSystems' heuristic models, built by its biologists using an integrated IT solution called CADI ™ (Computer Assisted Deductive Integration) have led to discoveries, patents, and operational businesses in the fields of infectious diseases, immunology, neurology, psychiatry, oncology, dermatology and innovative bioprocesses for industrial biotech. BMSystems' models describe the biological phenomena involved in pathological states and provide new mechanisms to explain the cause of certain diseases, identify and select predictive biomarkers, offer new combinations of molecules and new therapeutic strategies, thereby contributing to the development of Mechanism-Based Medicine.

This i) results in a significant reduction of short-term risks in therapeutic developments, ii) provides a new life to clinically well characterized molecules while iii) concurrently preserving the medium term potential for new drugs development.

Bio-Modeling Systems has made central and peripheral neurological diseases its primary axis of research, embodied by on-going programs and filed patents:

- **DECIUS**: On-going European collaborative research program addressing the identification of biomarkers attached to chronic anxiety. The first scientific results have been obtained and will be formally presented in May, at the 9th International Workshop on Computational Neuropsychiatry in Munich.
- **IDUNN**: Successfully completed research program that led to a novel combinatorial treatment addressing age-related degenerative disorders, such as Parkinson's disease; Patent pending.

BMSystems has successfully completed programs in infectious diseases, oncology, neurology, psychiatry, dermatology, immunology and metabolic disorders which led to patents and the creation of new companies exploiting these patents.

For more information and access to presentations & publications, please visit http://www.bmsystems.net.

About Aepodia.

Aepodia is specialized in the strategy and delivery of early drug and Medical Devices development, including the most pertinent Regulatory strategy.

Aepodia provides scientific translational strategic consultancy, expertise in development of human predictive Pharmacodynamic models, and access to an international network of experts in various drug development disciplines.

Aepodia highly skilled and multidisciplinary experienced operational team facilitates the conduct of those (complex) clinical trials, This team implements, manages and executes clinical trials, by offering "ad hoc" or "full services" support to complement the sponsor's internal team (e.g., Regulatory Strategy, Study design, Project Coordination, Monitoring, Competent Authority Submission, Site Selection/Assessment/Management, Medical Writing …).

In addition to traditional services, Aepodia conducts preclinical and clinical Due Diligence to facilitate out-licensing or in-licensing activities.

Specialties

Drug development and translational medicine expertise

Therapeutic areas of expertise (among others): CNS (e.g. Alzheimer, Parkinson, Pain,…) Metabolic Diseases , Endocrinology, Inflammatory,

For more information, please visit http://www.aepodia.com/

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