



Press release

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## Biolipox asthma project moves closer to clinical development

Biolipox, a research-intensive pharmaceutical company that develops novel treatments for inflammatory diseases, has selected a drug candidate for the development of a new asthma drug. Accordingly, the company moves closer to the clinical phase for a completely new class of drug, known as an eoxin inhibitor, for the treatment of inflammatory respiratory diseases, such as asthma and COPD. The eoxin pathway was discovered by Biolipox's scientific founders and led to the establishment of the company in the year 2000.

“This is a milestone on our way to achieving our vision of creating a leading pharmaceutical company within inflammatory diseases. Our pioneering research has resulted in the development of a drug candidate, which also represents a new mechanism for the treatment of asthma and COPD,” says Biolipox's President and Chief Executive Officer, Torbjörn Bjerke. “This is the second time in a year that we have shown that we can transform leading-edge research into attractive pharmaceutical projects. The first time was when we concluded a significant partnership agreement with Boehringer Ingelheim concerning a new class of drug against inflammatory pain.”

“The eoxin inhibitor has the potential to become an important therapy for asthma and COPD, where there is a significant need for safe and effective treatment. Few truly new drugs have been introduced to the market during recent years. The eoxin inhibitor will give rise to a novel treatment principle and, also, the drug can be taken in the form of a tablet,” says Chief Scientific Officer, Charlotte Edenius.

Biolipox will immediately commence the safety studies required to be able to initiate clinical studies of the drug candidate in humans during 2008.

This new class of drug inhibits production of proinflammatory eoxins which are formed from arachidonic acid. There is a long tradition of research surrounding how arachidonic acid is converted into various biologically active substances, so-called mediators, and their role in inflammatory processes in the body. Although it is a scientifically well-established area that has given rise to many successful and best-selling drugs, new discoveries continue to be made within these domains.

Biolipox's continued research has shown that eoxins are primarily formed in cells that are present in the airways, and that known inflammatory mediators, which are released in connection with allergies and asthma, give rise to increased eoxin production. Accordingly, the release of eoxins in the lungs can make a significant contribution to the inflammation observed in such conditions as allergic asthma and COPD. Other types of inflammatory diseases may also be of interest for treatment with this class of anti-inflammatory drug.

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**About Biolipox**

Biolipox is a Swedish research-intensive pharmaceutical company. The core of Biolipox's operations is world-leading research on arachidonic acid and its effects on inflammatory diseases - particularly asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), rhinitis, pain and arthritis. Through the in-house expertise in the inflammatory research area, particularly arachidonic acid metabolism, Biolipox has created a portfolio of potential blockbusters in these therapeutic areas. The company has 47 employees and is owned by HealthCap, Apax Partners, Sofinnova Partners, SLS Ventures, Crédit Agricole Private Equity, Auriga Partners and the founders