



UCB en Baylor College of Medicine starten strategische alliantie rond neurodegeneratie

- Strategische samenwerking zoekt naar transformerende therapieën voor mensen met een neurodegeneratieve ziekte

Brussel (België) en Houston (Texas, VS), 9 februari 2016: UCB en het Baylor College of Medicine starten een strategische onderzoekssamenwerking onder leiding van professor Huda Zoghbi. De samenwerking heeft als doel nieuwe therapieën te ontdekken voor de behandeling van neurodegeneratieve ziektes.

Deze onderzoekalliantie past binnen de strategie van UCB om de ontdekking en ontwikkeling van ziekte-veranderende therapieën te versnellen door sterke samenwerkingen aan te gaan met toonaangevende academische partners. Huda Zoghbi is professor aan de afdelingen Pediatrie, Moleculaire en Menselijke Genetica, Neurologie en Neurowetenschappen aan het Baylor College of Medicine, onderzoeker aan het Howard Hughes Medical Institute en directeur van het Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute (NRI) in het Texas Children's Hospital.

Het onderzoeksprogramma is afgestemd op een belangrijke strategie van UCB NewMedicines om te focussen op de ontdekking van geneesmiddelen die zich richten op ontwikkelingstrajecten met een hoog niveau van genetische en menselijke validatie. Professor Zoghbi en haar medewerkers hebben toonaangevende capaciteiten wat betreft het gebruik van functionele genetica in modelorganismen om therapeutische interventiepunten voor nieuwe medicijnen te identificeren.

“Wanneer we alleen werken kunnen we de ontdekking van transformerende geneesmiddelen niet versnellen om zo meerwaarde te creëren voor patiënten”, zegt Ismail Kola, Executive Vice President bij UCB & President New Medicines bij UCB. “Daarom creëren we supernetwerken met hoogkwalitatieve wetenschappelijke partners. Samen combineren we patiënteninzichten met een grondig begrip van de ziektemechanismen. Deze strategische onderzoekalliantie brengt Huda Zoghbi's onderzoek van wereldklasse samen met onze hoogkwalitatieve O&O teams zodat we geneesmiddelen kunnen ontdekken die gebaseerd zijn op genetisch gevalideerde doelen en die het leven van mensen met ernstige neurodegeneratieve ziektes kunnen veranderen.”

“Mijn team en ikzelf zijn zeer verheugd over de samenwerking met UCB aangezien hun expertise zeer complementair is met de onze. Daardoor zullen de therapeutische doelen snel worden gebruikt om nieuwe

geneesmiddelen te ontdekken voor patiënten die lijden aan verwoestende neurodegeneratieve ziektes”, zegt Prof. Zoghbi.

Dr. Paul Klotman, voorzitter en CEO van Baylor College of Medicine, zegt: “Dit soort samenwerkingen leidt tot versnelde resultaten. Dr. Zoghbi is een wereldautoriteit op vlak van onderzoek naar neurodegeneratieve ziektes en ik ben ervan overtuigd dat deze samenwerking zal leiden tot verbeterde klinische resultaten.”

For further information

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About UCB

UCB, Brussels, Belgium (www.ucb.com) is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of innovative medicines and solutions to transform the lives of people living with severe diseases of the immune system or of the central nervous system. With more than 8500 people in approximately 40 countries, the company generated revenue of €3.3 billion in 2014. UCB is listed on Euronext Brussels (symbol: UCB). Follow us on Twitter: @UCB_news

About Baylor College of Medicine

Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu) in Houston is recognized as a premier academic health sciences center and is known for excellence in education, research and patient care. It is the only private medical school in the greater southwest and is ranked 21st among medical schools for research and 11th for primary care by U.S. News & World Report. Baylor is listed 20th among all U.S. medical schools for National Institutes of Health funding and number one in Texas. Located in the Texas Medical Center, Baylor has affiliations with seven teaching hospitals and jointly owns and operates CHI St. Luke's Health, Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. Currently, Baylor trains more than 3,000 medical, graduate, nurse anesthesia, physician assistant and orthotics students, as well as residents and post-doctoral fellows.

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