

Healthcare industry BW

SYGNIS strengthens patent position on AX200 for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases

SYGNIS Pharma AG (Frankfurt: LIOK; ISIN DE000A1E9B74; Prime Standard), a clinical stage biotech company developing innovative therapies for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, today announced that it has licensed the exclusive rights to a European patent, which will significantly expand SYGNIS' IP-position with regard to its lead candidate AX200. AX200, which is known as the G-CSF protein, is currently in a clinical phase II efficacy trial for the treatment of acute ischemic stroke (AXIS 2).

The licence covers an issued patent which provides broad protection with regard to the use of G-CSF for the reorganisation of neural tissue affected by neurodegenerative diseases, especially stroke or trauma. The patent rights strengthen SYGNIS' IP-position around AX200 in the current AXIS 2-trial and also cover the use of G-CSF for the treatment of patients in the early rehabilitation-phase following a stroke. The patent has a scheduled expiry date of 2022, not including any potential extensions. In this respect, it complements the patent, granted in Europe in 2006 and in the USA in 2009, covering the use of AX200 for the treatment of stroke by stimulating arteriogenesis, to which SYGNIS has exclusive access under a license agreement with the Max-Planck Gesellschaft.

Dr Frank Rathgeb, Chief Medical Officer of SYGNIS, said: "These exclusive patent rights further strengthen the significant therapeutic potential of AX200. The current phase II efficacy trial for the treatment of acute ischemic stroke is progressing well and we expect to report the top-line data in the second half of 2011. Our robust intellectual property position means we are in a strong position to maximise the market potential of AX200."

Press release

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