

NEWS RELEASE

Metabomed joins Merck Serono Israel Bioincubator

Metabomed will be financed by a syndicate led by MS Ventures together with Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund, Pontifax LLC and the Technion Research and Development Foundation

Metabomed brings together three world-leading researchers to focus on drug discovery in the field of novel targets in cancer metabolism

Yavne, Israel 26 November, 2013— Metabomed, a newly created biotech company in the field of cancer metabolism, announced today that it has joined the Merck Serono Israel Bioincubator. Metabomed has entered into an agreement for a seed financing round led by MS Ventures, the corporate venture capital arm of Merck Serono, the biopharmaceutical division of Merck, and by Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund (BIVF), and Pontifax Fund, with the participation of the Technion Research and Development Foundation. The final transaction is subject to the successful completion of the approval process by the Israel Antitrust Authority.

Metabomed was founded by three leading researchers in the field of cancer metabolism and computational biology: Prof. Eyal Gottlieb from the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research in Glasgow, UK, Prof. Eytan Ruppin from Tel Aviv University, and Dr. Tomer Shlomi from the Technion Israel Institute of Technology, both in Israel.

Metabomed will focus on the identification of novel and proprietary targets in the field of cancer metabolism, based on its proprietary interdisciplinary target identification platform. Metabomed's approach has great potential to identify new targets that form a synthetic lethal gene pair with metabolic genes inactivated in cancer cells. Inhibition of these targets results in toxic effects specific to cancer cells, with potential sparing of normal cells. The company will subsequently focus on the discovery of novel small molecule drugs directed against such targets.

Metabomed will operate out of the new state of the art facilities inaugurated in 2012 at the Merck Serono Bioincubator, which will support the development of the new start-up with its infrastructure and a wide range of incubation services.

Simone Botti, Head of the Merck Serono Israel Bioincubator and Director at MS Ventures commented: "Metabomed is a welcome addition to the Israel Bioincubator's rapidly growing roster of companies and a clear testimony to MS Ventures' commitment to identify the best technologies coming out of Israel and transforming them into great companies together with leading VC partners such as BIVF and Pontifax."

“I believe that MetaboMed has the potential to become a ground-breaking platform, to identify novel targets in the emerging field of cancer metabolism. I am pleased to join the board of MetaboMed and to work together with three world-leading researchers in the area of cancer metabolism”, commented Dr. Ilka Wicke from BIVF.

Prof. Eytan Ruppin, speaking for the Founders added: “We are happy to see this integrated experimental and computational initiative forming and are hopeful that it may lead to new and more efficient drugs to treat cancer. We are especially pleased that our initiative has attracted top tier investors such as MS Ventures, BIVF and Pontifax, and are looking forward to an ongoing partnership with them on the longer term.”

About the Merck Serono Israel Bioincubator

The Merck Serono Israel Bioincubator is a strategic initiative designed to stimulate innovation by bridging the gap between academic research and the biotechnology industry in Israel. Launched in 2011 to invest in biomedical innovation in Israel, the Bioincubator offers both seed financing and access to dedicated laboratory facilities within the Merck Serono R&D center in Yavne, Israel. Through the incubator initiative, MS Ventures has committed to invest up to € 10 million in early stage opportunities.

About MS Ventures

MS Ventures is the strategic corporate venture capital fund of Merck Serono, the biopharmaceutical division of Merck. The fund was established in March 2009 and focuses primarily on early stage investments. MS Ventures has a strategic mandate and invests in companies that develop products and/ or technologies that could benefit patients in therapeutic areas relevant to Merck Serono. MS Ventures has a total of EUR 140 million under management for strategic investments, investments through its Israel BioIncubator and for spin-offs from the Merck Serono organization.

For more information, please visit www.ms-ventures.com.

About BIVF

The Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund was formed in March 2010 to invest in biotechnology and start-up companies to help drive innovation in medical science. These may include - but are not limited to - novel technologies to address so far undruggable targets, new generation vaccines and new biological entities, such as antibody-dependent oncolysis. Novel therapeutic targets and disease-related biomarkers, as well as new approaches in regenerative medicine, are an additional focus.

For more information, please visit www.boehringer-ingelheim-venture.com

About Pontifax

Pontifax is an Israeli group founded in 2005 and managed by Tomer Kariv and Ran Nussbaum. The group manages over \$220 million and has 27 companies in its portfolio.