Press release

Mifcare Announces Positive Preclinical Efficacy Data for MFC1040 in Sugen/Chronic Hypoxia Model of Severe Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

MIF antagonist MFC1040 showed efficacy in the Sugen/chronic hypoxia model of severe PAH

Paris, September 9, 2016 – Mifcare, a privately held biotechnology company developing breakthrough anti-inflammatory therapeutics announced today that efficacy of MFC1040 was confirmed in a second animal model of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) through collaboration with the team of Christophe Guignabert, PhD, from Inserm U999.

Mifcare’s lead compound MFC1040 is an orally bioavailable small molecule antagonist of macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF), a pleiotropic mediator contributing to inflammatory immune responses. MIF and its signaling through its high affinity receptor CD74 are key players at the crossroad of inflammation, cancer-like phenotype and endothelial dysfunction in the pathogenesis of PAH.

The results indicated that MFC1040 regressed established pulmonary vascular remodeling in the Sugen/chronic hypoxia (SuHx) rat model of severe PAH. This animal model closely mimics human severe PAH as it generates angio-obliterative pulmonary vascular lesions that are similar to the plexiform lesions found in human idiopathic PAH. When administered at a daily dose for three weeks, MFC1040 caused a reduction in mean pulmonary arterial pressure, an increase in cardiac output, and a decrease in pulmonary vascular resistance. The degree of pulmonary arterial wall thickness and right ventricular fibrosis was also lowered.

“These positive preclinical efficacy data obtained with MFC1040 in the Sugen/chronic hypoxia rat model of severe PAH confirm those previously obtained in the monocrotaline (MCT) rat model, and reinforce our decision to accelerate the development of this anti-inflammatory lead candidate towards a regulatory filing for clinical testing by the end of 2017” said Gael Jalce, PhD, CEO at Mifcare.

About PAH

Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a severe and incurable disease characterized by progressive narrowing of the small pulmonary arteries leading to an abnormal increase in pulmonary vascular resistance and pulmonary blood pressure and, ultimately right ventricular heart failure. Although the exact mechanisms leading to the onset and progression of PAH are still not yet fully understood, inflammation in and around the pulmonary arteries is strongly suspected to facilitate the development of the disease.

About Inserm

Founded in 1964, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) is a public science and technology institute, jointly supervised by the French ministry of education, higher Education and Research and the ministry of social affairs, health and women’s rights. The mission of its scientists is to study all diseases, from the most common to the most rare, through their work in biological, medical and public health research. Inserm supports more than 300 laboratories across
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France. In total, the teams include nearly 15,000 researchers, engineers, technicians and administrative staff, etc. For more information, please go to www.inserm.fr.

About Inserm U999

Inserm U999 headed by Marc Humbert, MD, PhD, is focused on pathophysiology and clinical management of pulmonary hypertension (PH). Composed of high level scientists, Inserm U999 studies molecular pathways causing pulmonary vascular remodeling in human and experimental models of PH, identifies targets for therapy, fosters drug development based on these targets and tests novel treatments. Inserm U999 is located at both Marie Lannelongue Hospital and Bicêtre Hospital. For more information, please go to www.u999.u-psud.fr/fr/.

About Mifcare

Mifcare is a privately held biotechnology company developing breakthrough anti-inflammatory therapeutics with a primary focus on pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). The company is specialized in the discovery and development of new small molecule antagonists of macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF), a pleiotropic factor that modulates pro-inflammatory immune responses. Mifcare has established a strategic collaboration in the field of pulmonary hypertension (PH) with Inserm U999, a world-renowned academic laboratory specialized in this disease. The company is headquartered in Paris, France. For more information about Mifcare, please visit www.mifcare.com or https://www.linkedin.com/company/mifcare.

Contact

Corporate and Media Contact
Gael Jalce, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
+33 6 142 105 42
contact@mifcare.com