
HANSA MEDICALS' DEVELOPMENT PARTNER AXIS-SHIELD SIGNS OPTION AGREEMENT WITH BIO-RAD LABORATORIES FOR COMMERCIALISATION OF HEPARIN BINDING PROTEIN

Axis-Shield plc (LSE:ASD) has entered an option agreement with Bio-Rad Laboratories (NYSE:BIO) for commercialisation of Heparin Binding Protein (HBP) as biomarker for severe sepsis. Bio-Rad is a multinational manufacturer and distributor of life science research and clinical diagnostics products. Under the terms of the agreement Bio-Rad will have the right to develop the HBP biomarker for use on its proprietary laboratory instruments globally. The financial details of the agreement were not disclosed.

In June 2009, Hansa Medical and Axis-Shield entered a development and licensing agreement regarding HMD-301, Hansa Medicals' patented method for *in vitro* diagnostics (IVD) of severe sepsis, based on plasma quantification of the protein HBP. The HBP assay under development has the potential to shorten the delay of treatment and save patients from developing severe sepsis.

"The option agreement between Axis-Shield and Bio-Rad verifies the potential of this exciting new product candidate as well as strengthens the possibility to reach the global market" says Emanuel Björne, CEO at Hansa Medical AB

Severe sepsis is a life-threatening complication to infection, characterized by organ failure and hypotension and it requires immediate medical attention and treatment. In sepsis, bacteria from a local infection, often pneumonia or urinary tract infections, enter the blood stream and cause a systemic inflammatory state. Severe sepsis is often lethal and in the US, more than 200,000 people die from severe sepsis every year. However, for every hour that severe sepsis onset is anticipated with proper treatment, the survival rate increases by 7.5 percent.

Hansa Medical is entitled to royalties from Axis-Shield on license payments and sales of HBP assays once the test is launched, which is anticipated in late 2011.

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ABOUT HANSA MEDICAL

Hansa Medical is a biopharmaceutical development company focused on inflammation. The company develops three product candidates in preclinical or early clinical phase; IdeS, anti-alpha-11 and HMD-301. IdeS is a novel treatment prior to organ transplantation. Anti-alpha-11 is a more specific rheumatoid arthritis treatment. HMD-301 is a novel diagnostic method for diagnosis and prognosis of severe sepsis. Hansa Medical is publicly traded at NASDAQ OMX First North under ticker symbol HMED. Remium AB is Certified Adviser to Hansa Medical

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