

Press Release

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Katairo licenses patent rights and expertise from Takeda for its drug development in Stargardt's disease and dry AMD

Tübingen/Konstanz March 25, 2017

Katairo today announced the licensing of patent rights along with substantial data and expertise from Takeda. The acquired assets support the Tübingen/Germany based company's pre-clinical Remofuscin program which aims for treatments of Stargardt's disease and dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Both indications are associated with accumulation of cellular debris called lipofuscin in a retinal cell layer. Metabolic turnover rates in this cell layer belong to the highest in the body. At the end of a long process of accumulating lipofuscin, the cells become dysfunctional and degenerate. For both diseases, there is no treatment so far. Patients are facing serious visual impairment or blindness. Remofuscin is Katairo's pioneering drug candidate that allows to remove lipofuscin from the accumulating cell layer. This could stop the progression of retinal degeneration and thereby creates hope for millions of people affected by one of these ailments.

"We are very happy with this deal", says Katairo CEO Wolfgang Klein. "On the one hand, we strengthen our patent portfolio by licensing certain rights. On the other hand, the licensed data allow us to demonstrate a well characterized drug substance together with considerable pharmaceutical manufacturing know-how to any partner interested in collaboration. Together with our own disease specific results for Stargardt's and AMD this allows us to offer an attractive re-purposing project in two very interesting indications." The data package originates from a completed phase 2 clinical development in a different indication.

Financial details of the licensing agreement remain confidential.

About Katairo

Katairo is a biotechnology company focused on discovering and developing treatments against serious and untreatable diseases of the back of the eye.

Remofuscin is a promising drug candidate to treat Stargardt's disease and dry age-related macular degeneration (dry AMD). The program is in pre-clinical stage. The company was founded by a group of experienced biotech entrepreneurs who are combining expertise in science, preclinical development, business development and IP. The company is located near Tübingen, Germany.

Stargardt's disease is a mono-genetic disease associated with lipofuscin accumulation in young people leading to blindness by legal definition. Katairo has registered an orphan drug designation for Stargardt's disease.

The dry form of age-related macular degeneration (dry AMD) is a widespread retinal dystrophy mostly affecting people over 60 years old. The pathogenesis is very similar with Stargardt's disease. Accumulation of lipofuscin in a retinal cell layer is followed by retinal degeneration. The process typically starts at the macula, the area of the retina responsible for acute



vision, and spreads radially. While there is treatment available for the wet form of age-related macular degeneration, dry AMD and Stargardt's disease patients still wait for the first approved medication.

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