

Moebius, Sun sign osteoarthritis drug licensing deal



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12 Dec, 2016 14:40 Globes correspondent

Israeli company Moebius Medical will receive an upfront payment, development-based and sales-based milestone payments, and tiered royalties on sales from Sun Pharma.

Israeli drug development company **Moebius Medical** has entered into an exclusive worldwide licensing deal with India's Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. to develop MM-II, a novel pharmaceutical candidate for the treatment of pain in osteoarthritis. MM-II is a non-opioid product that leverages the physical properties of proprietary liposomes to

lubricate arthritic knee joints, to reduce friction and wear, and pain in the joints.

MM-II is an intra-articular biolubricant injection which is being developed to provide symptomatic relief of mild-to-moderate osteoarthritis pain. The product is based on patent-protected technology licensed by Moebius Medical from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Technion Israel Institute of Technology and Hadassah Medical Centre.

Moebius Medical CEO Moshe Weinstein said, "The fact that our novel technology was conceived in Israel and developed within the RAD Biomed Accelerator, confirms the unique quality of the country's biotechnology ecosystem. In fact, our technology was borne from the multidisciplinary cooperation between leading professors from three of Israel's most prestigious research institutions: Prof. Yechezkel Barenholz of the Hebrew University, Prof. Izhak Etsion of the Technion Institute, and Prof. Dorit Nitzan of Hadassah Medical Center. I would especially like to thank Prof. Barenholz for his ongoing support of the company, together with Dr. Yaniv Dolev, whose vision and leadership in the company helped bring this partnership to fruition."

Sun Pharma Global Head of Business Development Kirti Ganorkar said, "Our agreement with Moebius Medical for an osteoarthritis product is a part of our effort to build a branded product pipeline and enrich our global portfolio for pain products. We are encouraged to further develop MM-II and hope to bring a new innovative treatment to patients suffering from osteoarthritic pain."

According to the agreement, Sun Pharma will fund further development of Moebius Medical's lead product, MM-II, and undertake its global commercialization. To date, Moebius Medical has completed a first-in-man clinical study at Hadassah Medical Center, demonstrating the product's fast onset of action and its potentially better efficacy and comparable safety for alleviating osteoarthritis pain as compared to Hyaluronic Acid injection.

Tel Aviv-based Moebius Medical will conduct requisite pre-clinical studies, and will assume responsibility for product development and manufacturing through the end of Phase-II studies. Sun Pharma will assume responsibility for further clinical studies, regulatory submissions and product commercialization. Moebius Medical will

12/22/2016

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Published by Globes [online], Israel business news - www.globes-online.com - on December 12, 2016

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