

AMPK Activator Licensing Deal Highlights Successful Collaboration between Boston-based Mercury Therapeutics and CreaGen Biosciences

BOSTON--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--The recent licensing deal between [Mercury Therapeutics](#) and [Debiopharm](#) showcases the highly successful partnership between Mercury Therapeutics and [CreaGen Biosciences](#), said CreaGen in a statement released today.

For the past three years, Mercury has partnered with CreaGen for medicinal chemistry-based outsourcing of their lead generation program seeking to develop small molecule activators of [AMP activated protein kinase](#). Novel AMPK activators hold promise for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.

The collaboration between Mercury and CreaGen has produced valuable intellectual property including MT-63-78. Now called Debio 0930, this compound serves as an orally active the lead compound for which Mercury has recently signed an exclusive licensing agreement with Debiopharm, SA of Lausanne, Switzerland.

According to a statement from Dr. Neal Birnberg, President and CEO of Mercury Therapeutics, “Our partnership with CreaGen began with *gratis* work and rapidly evolved into a [FTE](#)-based relationship where CreaGen functioned as our medicinal chemistry department, providing both chemical design and synthesis services. From the start, the CreaGen team was an active collaborator, where they drove the design and synthesis of promising compounds in a timely fashion.”

CreaGen CEO Dr. Raj (SB) Rajur noted “CreaGen developed the highly efficacious lead (Debio 0930) and backup compounds over a period of seven months, which is aggressive by industry standards. This FTE-based collaboration exemplifies the efficiency of our scientists and the value our experienced team provides to our partners.”

“We look forward to expanding our collaboration with CreaGen into other therapeutic areas,” Birnberg added.

“We are pleased by the tremendous success of this program and look forward to continued successes with each of our collaborators. Our partners require their outsourced chemistry programs to have well-managed teams of chemists experienced in drug discovery and development. They expect the convenience of a local partner and require the capacity and flexibility that CreaGen provides to each of our customers. When considering the investment in time and capital that FTE-based programs entail, the industry will seek the high value collaboration with CreaGen,” said Leland Johnson, Business Development Manager for CreaGen.

About CreaGen Biosciences, Inc.

Located in Woburn, Massachusetts, CreaGen is a privately held biotechnology company. As a premier, chemistry-based drug discovery service provider, CreaGen is focused on applying their onshore and offshore talent to meet customers’ growing chemistry needs while following aggressive timelines. With laboratory facilities in Woburn and in Bangalore (India), the company is well-suited to support the entire range of chemistry and pharmaceutical research

activities in industry and academia. Both locations provide access to robust transportation and communication infrastructures and to tremendous pools of talented scientists, enabling CreaGen to provide unparalleled service to its customers and partners.

For more information on CreaGen please visit: <http://www.creagenbio.com>.

About Mercury Therapeutics, Inc.

Located in Woburn, Massachusetts, Mercury Therapeutics is a privately held biotech company that develops small molecule direct AMPK activators as novel therapeutics for type 2 diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease. Mercury's lead generation platform is based on a proprietary technology that enables the discovery and development of novel compounds that directly activate AMP kinase, a key regulator of whole body energy metabolism, cholesterol and fatty acid biosynthesis, and cell division. Working with a big pharma partner, Mercury has recently out-licensed its metabolic disease portfolio and is currently focusing its internal resources on development of AMPK activators for indications in oncology.

For more information on Mercury Therapeutics please visit: <http://www.mtipharm.com>

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