



Press release, 17 December 2014

**Acesion Pharma raises 15.2 million DKK in new equity from Novo A/S and Broadview Ventures.**

Acesion Pharma, a Danish biotech company developing novel therapeutic treatments for atrial fibrillation (AF), today announced that it has raised 15.2 million DKK (2.5 million USD) in a new equity investment round. The round includes Boston-based Broadview Ventures as a new investor and current investor Novo Seeds.

AF is the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia and is characterized by an irregular and abnormally high frequency in the upper chambers of the heart, the atria. AF is associated with impaired quality of life, increased rate of hospitalization, and increased risk of stroke and death. AF is often treated acutely with electrical shock to bring the heart back to its normal rhythm and existing drug therapies have limited efficacy and/or are often associated with risk of serious adverse effects. There is a great need for more efficacious and safer drugs for the medical treatment of AF.

Acesion Pharma is developing a small molecule-based acute treatment of AF, a program funded by the Wellcome Trust Ltd. Within this program Acesion Pharma expects to select a development candidate in 2015.

In addition, Acesion Pharma is developing a chronic treatment to prevent the recurrence of AF and maintain normal heart rhythm (maintenance therapy). The new investment from Novo Seeds and Broadview Ventures will specifically fund the development of the chronic treatment of AF, a program that has been supported to date with funding from the Danish government through the "Innovation Fund Denmark" initiative.

CEO of Acesion Pharma, Ulrik Sørensen, comments:

"We are pleased about this additional funding that will allow us to accelerate the maintenance program and to welcome Broadview Ventures on board as a new investor. Broadview has a strict and dedicated focus on treatment of cardiovascular diseases and has established a unique network among leading cardiologists and entrepreneurs in this field. We look forward to their participation and to our future interaction with Broadview and see this as an opportunity to open new doors to US based cardiology experts and investors".

Chris Colecchi, Broadview Ventures Managing Director comments: "Broadview's mission is to accelerate the development of promising technologies to help bring about meaningful change for patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases. We are delighted to work with Novo Seeds and the Wellcome Trust to advance our mission via this investment in Acesion Pharma to support this innovative drug discovery program targeting AF".

Bobby G. Soni, Investment Director at Novo Seeds, comments:

"We are pleased to invest with Broadview Ventures to launch a program for the maintenance of sinus rhythm at Acesion Pharma. Their participation is a clear validation of the excellent progress the company has made since their founding and of the large unmet need in the area of atrial fibrillation".

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**About Acesion Pharma**

*Acesion Pharma ApS is a Danish biotech company founded in 2011 and based in Copenhagen. Acesion Pharma develops more efficacious and safe drugs for the treatment of atrial fibrillation (AF), the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia. Existing drug therapies generally have a limited effect or are associated with risk of serious adverse events, and there is therefore a considerable patient need for developing better and safer drugs. Inhibition of SK channels, an ion channel with relevance for regulating the heart rhythm, constitute a new and promising principle for the treatment of AF. Acesion Pharma aims to develop first-in-class SK channel inhibitors as a more efficacious and safe treatment of AF. Main equity investors in Acesion Pharma are Novo A/S, Broadview Ventures and SEED Capital. Further, Acesion Pharma in 2013 received 27.9 million DKK (3.7 million EUR) as a Seeding Drug Discovery Award from the UK based Wellcome Trust to fund the development of a novel drug for the acute treatment of AF.*

[www.acesionpharma.com](http://www.acesionpharma.com)

**About Broadview Ventures**

*In 2008 the Leducq Family Trust established Broadview Ventures, Inc. (Broadview). Broadview's mission is to accelerate the development of promising technology in cardiovascular and neurovascular disease through targeted investments in and support of early stage ventures. By making funding available at a critical moment in the development of new technology, the Leducq Family Trust is taking a leadership position in venture philanthropy by finding creative ways to support translational research in order to bring the advancements of science to the care of patients.*

[www.broadviewventures.org](http://www.broadviewventures.org)

**About Novo A/S**

*Novo Seeds is the early stage investment arm of Novo A/S. Novo A/S is the holding company in the Novo Group, is responsible for the management of the assets of the Novo Nordisk Foundation, which are currently valued at more than USD 30 billion. Novo A/S is a private limited liability company fully owned by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Besides being the major shareholder in Novo Nordisk A/S and Novozymes A/S, Novo A/S provides seed and venture capital to development stage companies and takes significant ownership positions in well-established companies, within life science and biotechnology, as well as manages a broad portfolio of financial assets.*

For further information visit [www.novo.dk](http://www.novo.dk)

**About atrial fibrillation (AF)**

*AF is the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia and is characterized by an irregular and abnormally high frequency in the upper chambers of the heart, the atria. It mainly affects the elderly population, and it is estimated that more than 4.5 million people in the EU has AF. AF is associated with impaired quality of life, increased rate of hospitalization, and increased risk of stroke and death. As a consequence of the increase in age of the population and in lifestyle related diseases, the numbers of AF patients are expected to rise significantly and predicts a major increase in the economic burden of AF.*

*AF is often treated with electrical shock, delivered during general anesthesia, and/or medical treatment, which brings the heart back to its normal sinus rhythm. Existing drug therapies have however only limited effect and/or are associated with risk of serious adverse effects, including risk of acutely life-threatening ventricular arrhythmia. There exist therefore a high unmet need for developing more efficacious and safe drugs for the medical treatment of AF.*