

Press Release

May 19th, 2022

TOPADUR together with the University Hospital and University of Zurich was awarded a grant by Innosuisse to develop a new breakthrough therapy to treat diabetic retinopathy

Zurich-Schlieren, Switzerland, May 19th, 2022. TOPADUR Pharma AG, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical start-up company developing first-in-class drugs for aging diseases, today announced that together with the University Hospital / University of Zurich has been awarded a 607K CHF Innosuisse grant to develop a new therapeutic approach to treat diabetic retinopathy.

Diabetic retinopathy is a severe complication of diabetes and a leading cause of blindness in working-age adults. High blood glucose levels lead to endothelial dysfunction, vascular damage, leakage of the blood-retinal barrier and insufficient oxygen supply to the retina. Among diabetic patients, the global prevalence of DR is estimated to be around 35%, of which a third have vision-threatening diabetic retinopathy. Diagnosis is often delayed until after the retina is severely damaged. Current treatments can slow the progression of the disease but there is no cure and vision cannot be restored.

In collaboration with Prof. Grimm and his team from the University Eye Hospital and the University of Zurich, we aim to develop a therapeutic approach based on nanoparticles with a slow-release formulation of TOP-V122. Based on initial results we expect that TOP-V122 increases ocular blood flow to a healthy level, avoiding hypoxia and vascular leakage. Such a therapy can fulfil the medical needs not only in diabetic retinopathy but also in other retinal diseases like Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and glaucoma. This collaboration will use synergies between TOPADUR's know-how in formulation development and Prof. Grimm's expertise in retina biology.

“We are extremely thankful for the support we have received from Innosuisse, the Swiss Innovation Agency, who awarded the grant”, said Reto Naef, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO at TOPADUR Pharma AG. “This project will support our R&D activities in ophthalmology. We will collaborate with a renowned investigator in the retina biology field from UZH and focus on developing a breakthrough therapy for the treatment of diabetic retinopathy and other retinal eye diseases”, commented Dr. Naef.

About TOP-V122

TOP-V122 is a dual-mode of action phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor (PDE5) / organic nitrate ester that targets the cGMP-Enzyme Regulation System. In a process called `bioactivation`, TOP-V122 gets converted into nitric oxide (NO) and two more potent PDE5 inhibitors TOP-V121 and TOP-V128 in the target cells. NO activates soluble guanylyl cyclase (sGC) to synthesize cyclic guanosine-3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP), while TOP-V121 and TOP-V128 reduce the degradation of cGMP by inhibiting PDE5. TOP-V122 is a locally applied, locally acting compound that has the potential to treat diabetic retinopathy by restoring healthy ocular blood flow.

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About TOPADUR

TOPADUR is a patient-oriented biotech company developing disruptive therapies for aging diseases. The Swiss-based biotech company developed the DualTOP™ technology platform consisting of new dual-acting drugs that increase cGMP levels to stimulate microcirculation, enable tissue regeneration, and avoid local oxygen deficiency. TOPADUR's R&D portfolio consists of promising development candidates in regenerative medicine, oncology, ophthalmology and medical aesthetics. The DualTOP™ technology will contribute to promoting long healthy life.

For more information regarding TOPADUR PHARMA AG, please visit: www.topadur.com

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