



Press Release 30 May 2013

## **An all-oral combination phase II study of Simeprevir and Samatasvir (IDX719) for the treatment of hepatitis C virus infection initiated**

- **Phase II HELIX-1 trial is first hepatitis C clinical study to commence through collaboration agreement between Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Idenix Pharmaceuticals Inc.**

**Stockholm, Sweden — Medivir AB (OMX: MVIR)** today announced that Idenix Pharmaceuticals Inc. has initiated a phase II clinical trial, called HELIX-1, evaluating an all-oral, direct-acting antiviral (DAA) HCV combination regimen of simeprevir, a once-daily protease inhibitor jointly developed by Medivir and Janssen R&D Ireland and samatasvir (IDX719), Idenix's once-daily pan-genotypic NS5A inhibitor.

"Hepatitis C is a complex disease and there is a need for multiple treatment options. Future hepatitis C treatment will be interferon free and will consist of two to three direct acting antivirals (DAAs). We are pleased and looking forward to having simeprevir evaluated in this two-direct-acting antiviral phase II study", said Charlotte Edenius, EVP Development, Medivir AB.

### **About the HELIX trial**

The HELIX-1 trial is a 12-week, randomized, double-blind, parallel group study evaluating the safety and tolerability of simeprevir and samatasvir in addition to antiviral activity endpoints, with a target enrollment of 90 treatment-naïve, non-cirrhotic, genotype 1b or 4 HCV-infected patients.

Patients will be randomized equally across three treatment arms, receiving 50, 100, or 150 mg samatasvir once-daily for 12 weeks in combination with 150mg simeprevir plus ribavirin.

The HELIX-1 trial is the first study in HCV-infected patients to commence under a non-exclusive collaboration agreement signed between Janssen and Idenix in January 2013. A second trial (HELIX-2) of simeprevir, samatasvir and TMC647055, a once-daily non-nucleoside polymerase inhibitor boosted with low-dose ritonavir being developed by Janssen, is expected to commence in the second half of 2013.

### **For more information please contact:**

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### **About Simeprevir**

Simeprevir is an investigational NS3/4A protease inhibitor jointly developed by Medivir AB and Janssen R&D Ireland for the treatment of genotype 1 chronic hepatitis C in adult patients with compensated liver disease, including all stages of liver fibrosis. Simeprevir works by blocking the protease enzyme that enables the hepatitis C virus to replicate in host cells.

New drug applications were recently submitted for simeprevir in Japan and the United States for the treatment of genotype 1 hepatitis C, and a Marketing Authorisation Application was submitted to the European Medicines Agency seeking approval of simeprevir for the treatment of genotype 1 or genotype 4 chronic hepatitis C. The U.S. FDA has granted Priority Review to the New Drug Application.

*Medivir is a collaborative and agile pharmaceutical company with an R&D focus on infectious diseases and a leading position in hepatitis C. We are passionate and uncompromising in our mission to develop and commercialize innovative pharmaceuticals that improve people's lives.*

Global phase III studies of simeprevir include PROMISE in adult patients who have relapsed after prior interferon-based treatment, QUEST-1 and QUEST-2 in treatment-naïve adult patients, and ATTAIN in prior null-responder adult patients. In parallel to these trials, phase III studies for simeprevir are ongoing in treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced HIV-HCV co-infected patients and HCV genotype 4 patients.

Simeprevir is also being studied in phase II interferon-free trials with and without ribavirin in combination with:

- Janssen's non-nucleoside inhibitor TMC647055 and ritonavir in treatment-naïve genotype 1a and 1b HCV patients;
- Gilead Sciences, Inc.'s nucleotide inhibitor sofosbuvir (GS-7977) in treatment-naïve and previous null-responder genotype 1 HCV patients; and
- Bristol-Myers Squibb's NS5A replication complex inhibitor daclatasvir in treatment-naïve and previous null-responder genotype 1 HCV patients.

In addition, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has entered into a non-exclusive collaboration with Vertex Pharmaceuticals to evaluate in a phase II study the safety and efficacy of an all-oral regimen of simeprevir and Vertex's investigational nucleotide analogue polymerase inhibitor VX-135 for the treatment of HCV. As a first step, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is conducting a drug-drug interaction (DDI) study with simeprevir and VX-135.

**For additional information about simeprevir clinical trials, please visit [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)**

#### **About Samatasvir (IDX719)**

Samatasvir is an NS5A inhibitor with low picomolar, pan-genotypic antiviral activity in vitro. To date, samatasvir has been safe and well-tolerated after single and multiple doses of up to 150 mg in healthy volunteers for up to 14 days duration and up to 100 mg in HCV-infected patients for up to 3 days duration. There have been no treatment-emergent serious adverse events reported in the program. Samatasvir has demonstrated potent pan-genotypic antiviral activity in HCV-infected patients with mean maximal viral load reductions up to approximately 4.0 log<sub>10</sub> IU/mL across HCV genotypes 1-4 in a proof-of-concept, three-day monotherapy study. For information about Idenix, please refer to [www.idenix.com](http://www.idenix.com).

#### **About Hepatitis C**

Hepatitis C, a blood-borne infectious disease of the liver and a leading cause of chronic liver disease and liver transplants, is a rapidly evolving treatment area with a clear need for innovative treatments. Approximately 150 million people are infected with hepatitis C virus worldwide, and about 350,000 people per year die from the disease. When left untreated, hepatitis C can cause significant damage to the liver including cirrhosis. Additionally, hepatitis C may increase the risk of developing complications from cirrhosis, which may include liver failure.

#### **About Medivir**

Medivir is an emerging research-based pharmaceutical company focused on infectious diseases. Medivir has world class expertise in polymerase and protease drug targets and drug development which has resulted in a strong infectious disease R&D portfolio. The Company's key pipeline asset is simeprevir, a novel protease inhibitor in late phase III clinical development for hepatitis C that is being developed in collaboration with Janssen R&D Ireland. Medivir has also a broad product portfolio with prescription pharmaceuticals in the Nordics.

**For more information about Medivir AB, please visit the Company's website: [www.medivir.com](http://www.medivir.com)**