

Successful completion of Phase 1a clinical trial with AMPK activator O304

Betagenon AB/Baltic Bio AB announces the completion of Phase 1a (single ascending dose) and initiation of Phase 1b (multiple ascending dose) clinical trials with O304, a unique orally available AMPK activator compound.

The epidemic increase in obesity associated with a western diet and sedentary life style has generated a concomitant epidemic in type 2 diabetes, and in associated cardiovascular complications. Similarly, peripheral arterial disease (PAD) which is caused by reduced blood flow to the legs manifested as ischemia-induced pain during walking, is often observed with co-morbid conditions such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes and physical inactivity, and represents a large unmet medical need.

Drugs that activate the key metabolic regulator **AMP Activated Protein Kinase (AMPK)** are expected to have beneficial effects on metabolic and cardiovascular diseases. **AMPK activator O304** improves glucose homeostasis by reducing obesity-induced fatty liver and peripheral insulin resistance in preclinical studies. **O304** also improves β -cell function by reducing human islet amyloid polypeptide (IAPP) deposits in β -cells of transgenic, diabetic mice. In addition, **O304** significantly enhances exercise endurance both in aged sedentary normal mice and in obese diabetic mice. O304 exhibits favorable pre-clinical pharmacology and toxicology profiles.

Phase 1a clinical studies with O304 at 100 to 2400 mg have now been successfully completed without any significant adverse effects and with the expected pharmacokinetics.

Betagenon AB is a privately owned Swedish Biotechnology company focused on the development of small molecule AMPK activators for multiple indications. **Baltic Bio AB** is a subsidiary of the investment company Fort Knox Forvaring AB, Umeå, Sweden.

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