PLUVIA

Pluvia Biotech progresses lead product for PKU and appoints Willem van Weperen as CEO

Bergen, Norway, 4 October 2023 – Pluvia Biotech (Pluvia), a company dedicated to developing pharmacological chaperones for the treatment of Phenylketonuria (PKU), is thrilled to announce progress with its lead product, as well as the appointment of Willem van Weperen as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The company was founded on research by Prof. Aurora Martinez and her team from the University of Bergen (Norway) into protein structure and protein misfolding. Based on this work Pluvia has developed small molecule pharmacological chaperones to stabilize the deficient enzyme in PKU that causes accumulation of the amino acid phenylalanine, which becomes toxic to the brain of PKU patients.

Recently, the company selected a lead candidate based on strong pre-clinical Proof of Concept data in PKU models and a clean preliminary safety profile. These positive results now allow Pluvia to target a Series A round early 2024 to take the project through Phase 1 and clinical Proof of Concept. Pluvia's scientific progress coincides with appointing Willem van Weperen as CEO to advance Pluvia's mission, succeeding Torgeir Vaage who will continue to support the company as CFO.

Willem van Weperen comes to the company with an extensive background in rare disease development and commercialization. In his early career this included several roles in Genzyme, where the rare disease business model was pioneered. Subsequently, Willem was several years CEO of early-stage CNS company to-BBB, which was followed by senior commercial leadership roles at rare disease companies Prosensa, Amicus (a leader in pharmacological chaperone therapy), Myokardia and most recently Intercept. Willem holds a MSc in Biomedical Sciences from Utrecht University and an MBA from Bradford University.

Sveinung Hole, Chairman of the Board at Pluvia Biotech, says: "We are delighted to welcome Willem as our new CEO. His relevant expertise and network align perfectly with Pluvia's stage of development. Under his guidance, we believe Pluvia Biotech will make significant strides in developing a new therapeutic option for patients with PKU."

Willem van Weperen also shared his excitement, stating: "I am honoured to lead Pluvia during this exciting phase of our mission. The scientific progress can now be translated to a program aimed at showing clinical Proof of Concept in PKU patients, which ultimately could offer PKU patients a new oral therapy option for a life without dietary constraints."

For more information about Pluvia Biotech and its innovative work in PKU treatment development, please visit www.pluviabiotech.com.

About PKU and Pharmacological Chaperones
Phenylketonuria (PKU) is a rare genetic disorder characterized by the body's inability to break down the amino acid phenylalanine due to a deficiency in the enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase (PAH). This results in the accumulation of phenylalanine in the bloodstream, leading to intellectual disabilities and other neurological problems if left untreated. Patients need a strict lifelong diet without regular protein intake to prevent cognitive impairment. Pluvia aims to develop pharmacological chaperones for oral use to stabilize the naturally occurring PAH enzyme, thereby allowing the breakdown of phenylalanine and a potential normalization of food intake for PKU patients.

About Pluvia Biotech
Pluvia Biotech is a spin-out from the University of Bergen (Norway) dedicated to developing "first in class" oral pharmacological chaperones for the treatment of Phenylketonuria (PKU). Through pioneering research and development, Pluvia Biotech aims to provide PKU patients with the opportunity to live life without the dietary constraints imposed by the condition.

For media inquiries and additional information, please contact info@pluviabiotech.com