



## **Syntaxin enters manufacturing agreement with SynCo Bio Partners B.V**

*Progresses Acromegaly programme towards clinic*

**Oxford, UK, 11th May 2011:** Syntaxin, a biotechnology company specialising in innovative biopharmaceutical therapies for cell secretion control, is pleased to announce a manufacturing agreement with SynCo Bio Partners B.V. Under the agreement, SynCo will manufacture SXN101959, Syntaxin's lead internal candidate for Acromegaly, discovered from its Targeted Secretion Inhibitor (TSI) platform.

Acromegaly is a chronic and debilitating disease resulting from the excessive secretion of growth hormone. Syntaxin's molecule, SXN101959, is in development for the therapeutic treatment of Acromegaly as a primary indication.

Dr Melanie Lee, CEO of Syntaxin, commented: "SynCo's manufacturing capability provides us with the means to rapidly move SXN101959 through to Phase I clinical trials in Acromegaly. Progress of SXN101959 towards the clinic follows a recent announcement that our partnered molecule AGN-214868, has entered Phase II in post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN) as a primary indication." Dr Lee added, "These molecules demonstrate the enormous potential of the platform to generate new treatments for a range of diseases. Aberrant secretion underpins many aspects of cancer, inflammatory, endocrine and gastro-intestinal diseases".

Pierre Warffemius, CEO of SynCo Bio Partners, commented: "SynCo is pleased to be working with Syntaxin on the manufacture of SXN101959 for the treatment of Acromegaly. We aim to establish a long-term relationship with Syntaxin to support its unique TSI platform and expanding product portfolio, by providing high quality manufacturing and filling services".

In Acromegaly, hypersecretion of growth hormone usually occurs from a benign pituitary tumour. Current first line therapy is the use of somatostatins to reduce secretion, however, up to 60% of patients are refractory to this treatment so there is a significant unmet need for new products. Syntaxin's TSI mechanism of action provides a unique and potentially superior approach to the inhibition of growth hormone release.

Under the agreement, SynCo will manufacture multiple batches of SXN101959 drug substance for the non-clinical and clinical programme. The manufacturing programme at SynCo Bio has commenced, with technical transfer of the manufacturing process and analytical release and stability assays from Syntaxin.

- Ends -

### **Contact Details**

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## **Notes for Editors**

### **About Syntaxin ([www.syntaxin.com](http://www.syntaxin.com))**

Syntaxin discovers and develops a new class of biopharmaceuticals which treat disease through selective inhibition of cell secretory processes. It is developing cell secretion inhibitors for the treatment of a range of endocrine diseases, including acromegaly.

Syntaxin's Executive Management, , has a wealth of pharmaceutical industry experience. Newly appointed Chairman, Dr Russell Greig has over 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry having spent the majority of his career at GSK. Dr Greig has held senior positions in R&D, business development and corporate operations. Prior to joining Syntaxin, Dr Greig was President of SR One, GSK's Corporate Venture Group. Chief Executive Officer, Dr Melanie Lee, spent a decade in research with GlaxoSmithKline and subsequently held leadership positions at Celltech and UCB. Chief Business Officer, Dr Nigel Clark, was formerly Vice President Business Development with Vernalis and has a strong track record in building strategic alliances. Dr Jon Court, Chief Development Officer, is leading the acromegaly project. He was previously founder and CEO of Fulcrum Pharma, an international contract drug development business, following R&D roles at Roche and Wellcome.

Syntaxin was founded in late 2005 through a spinout of intellectual property and scientists from the Health Protection Agency, and benefits from 15 years of research in the field of bacterial toxin engineering. The company owns dominant patents and know how in the design, manufacture and use of novel cell TSI based on engineered botulinum toxins. It has established a strong IP base with over 50 granted patents covering the platform and products. It is backed by strong investor base including: Abingworth, Lundbeckfond Ventures, LSP, Ipsen, JJDC, Quest, Seventure, and SR One

### **Syntaxin's Targeted Secretion Inhibitors (TSI) technology platform**

Syntaxin's TSI products are biological molecules synthesized in microbial cell culture, which selectively bind to their chosen targeted cells and become internalised to deliver endopeptidases into the cell's cytoplasm, preventing further vesicular secretion. A single dose provides an extended duration of action from weeks to months.

### **SynCo Bio Partners B.V. ([www.syncobiopartners.com](http://www.syncobiopartners.com))**

SynCo Bio Partners B.V. is a GMP contract manufacturing organization offering a fully integrated range of services in biopharmaceutical manufacturing and supports companies from the earliest stage in process development, through clinical trials to market supply.

With a track record of expertise in the production of recombinant proteins and vaccines, SynCo collaborates with a number of leading Biotech and Pharmaceutical companies worldwide.