

# NEWS RELEASE



**NIPPON SHINYAKU CO., LTD.**

February 9, 2024

## **Nippon Shinyaku and Vicore Pharma enter into an Exclusive License Agreement to Develop and Commercialize C21 for the treatment of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis in Japan**

KYOTO, Japan, February 9, 2024 - Nippon Shinyaku Co., Ltd. (Nippon Shinyaku; Headquarters: Kyoto; President, Toru Nakai) announced that Nippon Shinyaku and Vicore Pharma Holding AB (publ) (Vicore; Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden, CEO: Ahmed Mousa, NASDAQ Stockholm: VICO) have entered into an exclusive license agreement for the development and commercialization of C21 for the treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) in the territory of Japan.

IPF is one of the idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, a serious chronic lung disease designated as an intractable disease by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. IPF causes progressive fibrosis in the lungs, resulting in symptoms such as respiratory dysfunction, dry cough and pulmonary hypertension. IPF is reported to be more common in men over the age of 50, and the average survival time after diagnosis is 3 to 5 years and several months in the case of an acute exacerbation. In Japan, there are a few anti-fibrosis drugs, but the treatment options are very limited and there is a high unmet need for the development of effective therapies.

C21 is a first-in-class orally available small-molecule angiotensin II type 2 receptor agonist (ATRA) that Vicore is developing overseas for the treatment of IPF. A Phase IIa study (AIR study) is ongoing outside Japan and has shown tolerability and stabilization or improvement in respiratory function at interim analysis in naive IPF patients. A global Phase IIb study (ASPIRE study) is planned to start in the first half of 2024. C21 was granted orphan drug designation by the European Medicines Agency in 2016 and by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2017.

Nippon Shinyaku is focusing on the field of intractable, rare disorders and dedicated to the development and commercialization of therapeutic agents and providing medical information. According to this agreement, Nippon Shinyaku aims to contribute to the treatment for IPF patients by moving forward clinical development and delivering C21 to patients suffering from IPF as soon as possible.

**About Vicore Pharma Holding AB(publ)**

Vicore is an innovative clinical-stage pharmaceutical company unlocking the potential of a new class of drugs with disease-modifying potential. The company is establishing a portfolio in respiratory diseases, including IPF. Using its unique expertise in ATRAG chemistry and biology, Vicore is further fueling its pipeline with several new therapies across additional potential indications. The company's shares (VICO) are listed on Nasdaq Stockholm's main market. For more information, see [www.vicorepharma.com](http://www.vicorepharma.com).

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