

Press Release

LDC Enters new Industry Partnership for the Discovery of Novel Medicines

LDC and Roche will jointly advance innovative drug discovery projects

Dortmund, January 21, 2016 – The Lead Discovery Center GmbH (LDC) and Roche will collaborate to identify and leverage innovative therapeutic opportunities that address diseases of unmet medical need across several disease areas.

Projects will be sourced from the LDC's academic partners, including leading universities and institutes from the Max Planck Society and the Helmholtz Association, as well as from Roche's innovation network. The partners will work together to advance projects from as early as target level up to the identification of a preclinical candidate. Over an initial three year period, LDC will act as a translational incubator for Roche and carry out small molecule projects in close collaboration with the scientific inventors and their academic institutions.

"We are delighted to team up with Roche, the world's largest biotech company," says Dr Bert Klebl, CEO of the LDC. "We are impressed by their deep expertise across many disease areas and the perfect cultural fit with our team. We are definitely on the same wavelength regarding our approach to early drug discovery and share a mission to transform academic innovation into tangible benefits to patients."

Upon attainment of a predefined milestone, Roche has option rights to an exclusive license. The terms and conditions of collaboration and licensing will be agreed on a project-by-project basis to ensure a fair balance of investments and potential returns between the partners. Any revenue the LDC may receive from a potential future commercialization will be shared with the academic inventors and collaborating institutions. Roche's contributions will include research funding and possibly in-kind support required for optimal project progress, such as access to compound libraries.

About the LDC

The Lead Discovery Center (LDC) was established in 2008 by the technology transfer organization Max Planck Innovation, as a novel approach to capitalize on the potential of excellent basic research for the discovery of new therapies for diseases with high medical need.

The LDC takes on promising early-stage projects from academia and transforms them into innovative pharmaceutical leads that reach initial proof-of-concept in animals. In close collaboration with high-profile partners from academia and industry, the LDC is building a strong and growing portfolio of small molecule leads with exceptional medical and commercial potential.

The LDC sustains a preferred partnership with the Max Planck Society and has formed alliances with AstraZeneca, Bayer, Merck Serono, Daiichi Sankyo, Qurient, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Infinity and Roche as well as leading academic drug discovery centers around the globe.

Further information at: <http://www.lead-discovery.de/>

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