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## Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH and Zedira enter a phase 1b clinical trial for a celiac disease drug

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Freiburg and Darmstadt, July, 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH and Zedira announce the start of a phase 1b multiple ascending dose clinical trial for the drug candidate ZED1227, a direct acting inhibitor of tissue transglutaminase. A precedent successfully completed phase 1a single ascending dose study already deemed that ZED1227 is safe and well tolerated in male healthy volunteers.

The small molecule ZED1227 targets the dysregulated transglutaminase within the small intestine in order to dampen the immune response to gluten which drives the disease process. This approach will offer patients additional safety when applied in support of a 'mostly' gluten-free diet thereby improving the quality-of-life of millions of people.

Already in 2011, Dr. Falk Pharma licensed the rights for ZED1227 in Europe and took charge of preclinical and clinical development of the new chemical entity. The license agreement secured Zedira an upfront payment and further milestone payments as well as royalties. The rights outside Europe are jointly owned by the partners.

The project receives additional support through a grant from the German Ministry for Education and Research within the Ci3 leading-edge cluster "Ci3-Cluster for Individualized Immune Intervention" in cooperation with Prof. Detlef Schuppan (University of Mainz).

**Celiac Disease** is the most common chronic inflammation of the small intestine. The autoimmune disease affects about 1% of most populations and is caused by alimentary gluten in genetically susceptible individuals.

### **About Zedira:**

The Darmstadt-based biotech company has a focus on celiac disease and other transglutaminase-linked conditions in the arena of autoimmunity, fibrotic disease and coagulation. The company develops, produces and markets specialist reagents and kits for research and development as well as for clinical diagnostics. Zedira is also establishing a pipeline of drug candidates adapted to specific indications based on its patented family of low-molecular transglutaminase blockers. ZED1227 is the first direct acting transglutaminase inhibitor entering clinical development. The company is actively progressing follow-on candidate molecules informed by the know-how gained with development of ZED1227 and aims at new approaches in thrombosis prophylaxis. Zedira is a portfolio company of the German High-Tech Gründerfonds.

**About Dr. Falk Pharma:**

Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH specializes in the development and marketing of pharmaceuticals used in hepatology and gastroenterology. Falk is one of the leading European companies in the field marketing its products by means of subsidiaries in selected countries and a network of sales partners. Further, the Falk Foundation, an independent organization associated with Dr. Falk Pharma, is well-known for its international symposia, forums and educational literature supporting medical doctors, patients and their families.

**About Prof. Schuppan, Institute of Translational Immunology, University of Mainz:**

Detlef Schuppan is Internist and Gastroenterologist and since 2013 Chair of the Institute of Translational Immunology at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. He also obtained a Full Professorship of Medicine, is member of the Harvard Celiac Center and holds a faculty position at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA. He is considered an international opinion leader in celiac disease, both as physician and researcher. In Mainz he has established a center for patients with celiac disease, complicated celiac disease and gluten sensitivity.

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