Versantis Establishes Medical Advisory Board

FIVE REKNOWNED INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN HEPATOLOGY, INTENSIVE CARE, AND NEPHROLOGY JOIN VERSANTIS TO TRANSFORM THE CARE OF ACUTE LIVER DISEASES.

Zurich, Switzerland, March 29th, 2018 – Versantis, a pharmaceutical company with the mission to revolutionize the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of patients with liver diseases, today announces the formation of a Medical Advisory Board (MAB). The MAB will provide independent advice, overview, and scrutiny to successfully support the clinical development activities. Versantis' MAB will be multi-disciplinary including experts in the areas of hepatic encephalopathy, acute-on-chronic liver failure, intensive care, and nephrology; each of them will be a critical asset for carving out the company's clinical strategy.

The appointees to the MAB are:

Prof. William Bernal, MB BS, BSc, MD, FRCP, FFICM is Professor of Liver Critical Care Medicine with specialist interest in Liver Failure and Liver Transplantation. Dr. Bernal qualified in 1989 from the Royal London Hospital. In 1995 he became a Clinical Research Fellow at the Institute of Liver Studies at King's College Hospital and then progressed to Senior Registrar in Gastroenterology and Liver Medicine. Following this, he moved to St Thomas' Hospital London before returning to King's in 2002 as Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine. His research interests include liver disease and critical illness and the care of critically ill patients undergoing liver transplantation and he has published extensively in these fields.

Sara Montagnese, MD, PhD works at the Department of Medicine DIMED, University of Padova. Dr. Montagnese qualified in 1999 from University of Padua, Italy, and specialized in Internal Medicine in 2008. In 2009, she completed her PhD studies at University College London, UK. She currently serves as President elect of the International Society for Hepatic Encephalopathy and Nitrogen Metabolism (ISHEN) and is part of the Editorial Board of Journal of Hepatology. She has a longstanding clinical and research interest in hepatic encephalopathy, a cerebral complication of liver disease on which she has published extensively, especially in relation to diagnosis and differential diagnosis. Her research activities are also in sleep and circadian rhythms.

Prof. Stephan Segerer, MD, EMBA UZH is Attending Physician in the Division of Nephrology at Kantonsspital Aarau, in tenure track to Chief of Nephrology. He received his MD from the Ludwig Maxilmilians University in Munich in 1996. He is a clinical Scientist with a focus on inflammatory mechanism in renal and peritoneal injury. He worked as a Nephrologist at the University of Munich and from 2008 to 20016 in the Division of Nephrology, at the University Hospital Zürich, Switzerland. In 2017 he finished an executive MBA at the University of Zurich. His clinical focus is on the use of Peritoneal Dialysis in patients with liver cirrhosis and heart failure. He was a group leader of a basic scientific laboratory from 2002 to 2016; since 2017 he focuses on clinical research.

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Prof. Faouzi Saliba, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor in Gastro-Enterology and Hepatology at the University of Paris IX, France, and heads the Intensive Care Unit at the Hepato-Biliary Centre and Liver Transplant Unit at Paul Brousse Hospital. Prof. Saliba received his Medical Degree in 1986 from the University of Paris VII. He has been working for over 25 years in the management of patients affected with hepato-biliary diseases and liver transplantation, and has conducted, coordinated and participated to >90 international clinical trials from phase I to IV in fields of transplantation, hepatology, artificial liver support, immunology and infectious disease.

Prof. Jonel Trebicka, MD, PhD will act as Chairman of the MAB as well as Versantis' Medical Lead for VS-01's program. Prof. Trebicka is Head of the University of Bonn's Laboratory for Liver Fibrosis and Portal Hypertension since 2012 in the Department of Internal Medicine. His main interests cover basic, translational and clinical research of mechanisms and modulation of liver fibrogenesis and portal hypertension, vascular liver disorders, and end-stage liver diseases in which he has been working since 2001. He currently acts as Principal Investigator of the PREDICT Study, an International-European, investigator-initiated, multicenter, prospective, observational study, which started in early 2017 and involves 53 centers that belong to the European Foundation for the Study of Chronic Liver failure (EF-CLIF foundation)-EASL-CLIF Consortium and will recruit 1'400 cirrhotic patients, of which more than 980 have been already recruited so far.

Commenting the announcement, Dr. Meriam Kabbaj, Versantis co-founder and COO says: *"I am honored to be working with such eminent doctors who will play an important role in guiding Versantis' clinical development programs and help us fulfill our mission of bringing the first stand-alone therapy to acute-on-chronic liver disease patients with hepatic encephalopathy"*.

"Acute-on-chronic liver failure is a complex disease which lacks effective therapeutic options. We are thrilled to have attracted some of the world's leading experts to tackle this unacceptable status quo" adds Dr. Vincent Forster, co-founder and CEO of Versantis. *"Appointing the members of our Medical Advisory Board is a key milestone towards clinical validation of our lead product – VS-01 – and endorses its scientific and medical potential"*.

"ACLF has so far very few treatment options, and new advances in the management of ACLF are urgently needed. This is especially important, since this syndrome has a dramatic morbidity and mortality." explains Prof. Trebicka, chair of the MAB. *"ACLF is still poorly understood. Hepatic encephalopathy seems to play an important role in the natural history of ACLF and most of these patients present with ascites requiring paracentesis. Therefore, combining paracentesis with removal of ammonia and other toxic substances, without the need of extracorporeal circulation is a great possibility. This strategy has the potential to change the course of ACLF and even of decompensated liver cirrhosis."*

About ACLF

Acute-on-chronic liver failure is a rare disease characterized by an acute decompensation of the liver in a patient with preexisting damages caused by cirrhosis. This condition is often supplemented by hepatic encephalopathy, a debilitating neurologic alteration rapidly progressing into coma and death. ACLF affects about 200'000 patients yearly in the US and the EU and continues to spread due to the aging population, and a higher prevalence of diabetes, obesity, alcohol, and drug consumption.

About Versantis

Versantis is a pharmaceutical company, Spin-off of ETH Zurich, founded in 2015 by Prof. Jean-Christophe Leroux, Dr. Meriam Kabbaj, and Dr. Vincent Forster. With headquarter based in Zurich, Switzerland, Versantis develops breakthrough liver disease medicines and diagnostics addressing high unmet medical needs. Versantis raised a Series A in 2017 to advance its lead candidate, VS-01, through the first-in-human clinical

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trial. VS-01 has the potential to be the first drug for acute liver diseases simultaneously supporting multiple failing organs. VS-01 targets 3 rare indications and received orphan designations in the US and the EU. Besides acute indications, Versantis tackles the prevention and the diagnosis of hepatic encephalopathy in chronic liver disease patients with VS-02, an oral polymer-based product, and TS-01, an innovative clinical test for ammonia measurements. Both represent large market opportunities and significant upsides for Versantis.

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