Press Release - Dec. 7, 2017

MedinCell receives grant to develop long-acting injectable contraceptive

French company MedinCell has been awarded $3.5M grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to advance development of 6-month acting injectable contraceptive candidate with the company's BEPO® technology. In the long-term, this program could facilitate access to contraception for millions of women in developing countries.

"By developing innovative and affordable contraceptives with the support of the Gates Foundation, we share the ambition to give every woman the chance to determine her own future," says the company before adding *"Coupling progestin molecules with our BEPO® technology enables us to design contraceptive products that meet users' needs and address significant challenges such as low affordability, weak distribution systems or cultural barriers that exist in developing countries."*

An estimated 80 million women in developing countries have an unintended pregnancy each year[1]. Among these women, one in four resorts to an unsafe abortion. Increasing access to efficient contraceptives - with relevant family planning information and services - aims to reduce unintended pregnancies, deaths from pregnancy and childbirth, abortion rates and lead to fewer infant deaths. It also aims to improve educational and economic opportunities for women, and lead to healthier families and communities.

The program aims to design a 6-month active contraceptive with a single injection. It would be the first long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) that combines four essential features: progestin molecule, subcutaneous injection, fully bioresorbable depot and affordability.

Studies have shown the superior effectiveness of LARC methods compared to other types of birth control. The risk of contraceptive failure for women using oral contraceptive pills or other methods is 17 to 20 times higher than the risk for those using LARCs. Lack of patient adherence to contraceptive treatments is the main explanation.[2]

Unlike others LARCs, such as contraceptive implants, no surgical intervention will be necessary with the BEPO® contraceptive. After a simple subcutaneous injection of the BEPO® contraceptive, a depot is formed that acts as a virtual-pump until it disappears completely. Due to BEPO's high stability and low development and production costs, the contraceptive should be suitable for non-profit programs and be accessible to women in both developing and developed countries in accordance with MedinCell commitment to Global Health.

Medincell will now begin formulating the new BEPO® contraceptive and expects to have candidate products ready for next development stages (pre-clinical then clinical trials) within approximately two years.

About the BEPO® technology

MedinCell has developed and patented BEPO® technology, which makes it possible to control and guarantee regular delivery of the optimal dosage of a medicine for a period of several days, weeks or months, by means of a simple depot injection. The depot is completely bioresorbable and is formed immediately after a subcutaneous or localised injection. A real alternative to conventional methods of taking medicines, BEPO® technology offers a number of advantages to address major healthcare challenges around the world: improved tolerance and patient observance, more effective treatments, as well as rapid development and low production costs.

About Medincell

MedinCell is a technological pharmaceutical company, focusing on useful innovation in order to optimize the efficiency of medical treatments and make them accessible all over the world. MedinCell has developed its patented BEPO® technology, which will allow for the arrival of a new generation of long-acting injectable medicines, lasting from a few days to several months. Developed in partnership with a number of pharmaceutical groups, the first treatments using BEPO® technology are already undergoing clinical trials. Based in Montpellier, MedinCell currently has around 100 employees, representing more than 25 nationalities.

www.medincell.com

1. Gilda Sedgh,Susheela Singh, Rubina Hussain, “Intended and Unintended Pregnancies Worldwide in 2012 and Recent Trends” (2014)
2. Winner, B; Peipert, JF; Zhao, Q; Buckel, C; Madden, T; Allsworth, JE; Secura, GM. (2012), "Effectiveness of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception", New England Journal of Medicine, 366 (21): 1998–2007, doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1110855, PMID 22621627

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