

## News Release

Your Contact

alice.mcgrail@emdserono.com

Phone: +1-781-738-8791

### **Not intended for UK- or Canada-based media**

September 21, 2022

## **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany Enters Collaboration and Option to License Agreement with Nerviano Medical Sciences to Develop Next-Generation PARP1 Selective Inhibitor**

- **NMS-293 is a next generation, orally available, brain-penetrant PARP1 selective inhibitor**
- **NMS-293 is currently studied in Phase I as monotherapy for the treatment of patients with BRCA-mutated tumors and in combination with temozolomide in recurrent glioblastoma**
- **Next generation PARP1 selective inhibitors could fill a significant unmet patient need across a wide range of tumors including those not responsive to currently available PARP inhibitors and those requiring combination with other agents**

Darmstadt, Germany, September 21, 2022 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today announced a collaboration agreement with licensing option with Nerviano Medical Sciences S.r.l. (NMS) for the next-generation highly selective and brain-penetrant PARP1 (poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase) inhibitor, NMS-293. NMS-293 has strong potential in combination with a wide variety of DNA-damaging agents, including systemic or targeted chemotherapy (Antibody-Drug Conjugates) or with DNA damage response inhibitors, in numerous tumor types. NMS-293 is in early clinical development for the treatment of patients with BRCA-mutated tumors as a single agent and in combination with temozolomide in recurrent glioblastoma.



## News Release

“Building on the therapeutic impact that PARP inhibitors have had over the last several years, we believe this new PARP1 program, if successful, could fill a significant unmet need for patients unresponsive to existing PARP inhibitors with an improved hematological adverse event profile,” said Victoria Zazulina, M.D., Head of Development Unit, Oncology, for the Healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. “The work of NMS to discover and advance this next generation PARP1 selective inhibitor coupled with our deep expertise in developing therapies which modify DNA damage response mechanisms, creates a strong foundation to further develop this investigational therapy for patients.”

PARP is key in the repair of DNA damage, and PARP inhibitors have been shown to be highly efficacious in the treatment of patients with tumors deficient in homologous recombination repair, such as breast, ovarian, prostate and pancreatic cancers with BRCA-mutations.

Under the current agreement, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany will make early payments (up-front and option exercise fees) of up to \$65 million to NMS. Furthermore, NMS will receive payments for the achievement of certain development, regulatory and commercial milestones and tiered royalties on net sales by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. Upon exercise of the option, NMS will grant to Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany the exclusive rights to research, develop, manufacture, and commercialize NMS-293.

During the option period, NMS and Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany will collaborate on the clinical development of NMS-293, with NMS designing, sponsoring, conducting, and funding global clinical trials.

All Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, press releases are distributed by e-mail at the same time they become available on the EMD Group website. In case you are a resident of the USA or Canada, please go to [www.emdgroup.com/subscribe](http://www.emdgroup.com/subscribe) to register online, change your selection or discontinue this service.

### **About NMS-293**

NMS-293 is an orally available small molecule inhibitor of PARP1 and is currently in early clinical development for the treatment of patients with BRCA mutated tumors as single agent and with recurrent Glioblastoma (GBM), a brain tumor with very high medical need, in combination with temozolomide (TMZ).

## News Release

### **About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across healthcare, life science and electronics. Around 60,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people's lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From advancing gene editing technologies and discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2021, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 19.7 billion in 66 countries.

The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark "Merck" internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Electronics. Since its founding in 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company's technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.