



Araris Biotech AG Announces Research Agreement to Develop Next-Generation ADCs Using Araris' AraLinQ™ technology

AU ZH, SWITZERLAND, April 29, 2025 – Araris Biotech AG (“Araris”), a Swiss wholly owned subsidiary of Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (“Taiho Pharmaceutical”) developing next-generation antibody drug conjugates (ADCs), announced today that it has entered a Research Agreement with Johnson & Johnson* to develop ADCs. No financial terms were disclosed.

The Araris approach can create ADCs with a highly scalable one-step enzymatic conjugation with high precision and efficiency, potentially reducing costs and accelerating development timelines. The proprietary ADC linker platform AraLinQ™ has generated highly uniform, stable and potent ADC therapeutic candidates.

Dr. Dragan Grabulovski, CEO of Araris commented: “Following the recent announcement of our acquisition by Taiho Pharmaceutical, we are proud to have entered into this agreement, to utilize our AraLinQ™ technology to develop ADCs.”

Dr. Philipp Spycher, CSO of Araris added: “This is the third agreement established by Araris, after the successful collaboration with Taiho Pharmaceutical announced in November 2023, and with Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd most recently announced in January 2025. This new agreement represents a further step to establish our AraLinQ™ technology as a promising approach for ADC development.”

*Research Agreement between Janssen Biotech, Inc., a Johnson & Johnson Company, and Araris Biotech AG Legal entity

About Araris Biotech AG

Araris Biotech is a leading biotech company pioneering the future of antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) and redefining the entire paradigm of targeted cancer therapy and beyond. Araris’ vision is a world without chemotherapy and its proprietary conjugation and groundbreaking multi-payload technology represents a quantum leap forward in ADC design, enabling the transformation of any antibody into an ADC with the goal of better safety and efficacy. By enabling the attachment of multiple, synergistic cancer-fighting payloads to a single antibody in an efficient one-step process, Araris is creating a new generation of smart missiles that deliver the potency of combination chemotherapy in a targeted fashion in order to tackle the persistent challenges of cancer resistance.

Araris is a wholly owned subsidiary of Taiho Pharmaceutical following its acquisition in March 2025. For more information about our science and pipeline, please visit <https://www.ararisbiotech.com/>.

About Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Taiho Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of Otsuka Holdings Co., Ltd. (<https://www.otsuka.com/en/>), is an R&D-driven specialty pharma focusing on the fields of oncology and immune-related diseases. Its corporate philosophy takes the form of a pledge: “We strive to improve human health and contribute to a society enriched by smiles.” In the field of oncology, in particular, Taiho Pharmaceutical is known as a leading company in Japan for developing innovative medicines for the treatment of cancer, a reputation that is rapidly expanding through their extensive global R&D efforts. In areas other than oncology, as well, the company creates and markets quality products that effectively treat medical conditions and can help improve people’s quality of life. Always

putting customers first, Taiho Pharmaceutical also aims to offer consumer healthcare products that support people's efforts to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. For more information about Taiho Pharmaceutical, please visit <https://www.taiho.co.jp/en/>.

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