

## NOXXON INITIATES MULTIPLE DOSE PHASE I CLINICAL TRIAL OF SDF-1 INHIBITOR NOX-A12

**Berlin, Germany, 22 September 2010** – NOXXON Pharma AG ([website](#)) announced today that it has commenced a multiple dose study of its stromal cell-derived factor 1 (SDF-1 or CXCL12) targeting Spiegelmer®, NOX-A12.

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### Notes to editors

#### About Spiegelmers®

Spiegelmers® (L-stereoisomer RNA oligonucleotides) are chemical entities based on synthetic mirror-image oligonucleotides which are highly selective for their pharmacological target and potent inhibitors of target function. They combine the benefits of small molecule drugs and biopharmaceuticals. Due to their unique mirror-image configuration Spiegelmers® are not metabolized and do not hybridize with native nucleic acids. Spiegelmers® also do not activate the innate immune response via toll-like receptors and showed an exceptionally favorable immunogenicity profile in pre-clinical testing.

#### About NOX-A12

NOX-A12 is a new Spiegelmer®-based therapeutic that specifically binds to and antagonizes stromal cell-derived factor-1 (SDF-1 or CXCL12), a chemokine which attracts and activates immune- and non-immune cells. SDF-1 binds with high affinity to the chemokine receptors CXCR4 and CXCR7. The CXCR4/SDF-1 axis has been shown to play a role in stem cell mobilization, vasculogenesis, tumor growth and metastasis. Inhibition of the SDF-1 binding to CXCR4 sensitizes tumor cells to chemotherapy suggesting that NOX-A12 in combination with chemotherapy could be beneficial in the treatment of various cancers.

NOX-A12 has been evaluated in models of stem cell mobilization, angiogenesis, inflammation and lung and kidney injury. In these models NOX-A12 reduced pathological angiogenesis and tissue remodeling. In preclinical safety and two week toxicology studies NOX-A12 was safe and did not show any organ toxicity or immunotoxicity, such as Toll-like receptor activation or changes in cytokine levels. A Phase I single dose study demonstrated that NOX-A12 was safe and well-tolerated up to the highest tested dose of 10.8 mg/kg. Pharmacodynamic analysis from this study also revealed a long lasting and dose dependent

mobilization of WBC and CD34 positive cells. A Phase I multiple ascending dose study is ongoing.

NOXXON receives grant support (Grant no. 0315118) within the program "KMU-innovativ" from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for the preclinical program and the first-in-human clinical trial with NOX-A12.

## **About NOXXON**

NOXXON Pharma AG is a biotechnology company developing a promising new class of therapeutics called Spiegelmers, which are oligonucleotides made from the L-stereoisomer of RNA. Spiegelmers can be engineered to bind specifically to a precisely defined biological target and have been shown to be potent inhibitors. Clinical and pre-clinical studies of Spiegelmers to date have shown them to be exceptionally safe, well-tolerated, biologically stable and non-immunogenic. NOXXON has three programs in development, two of which have successfully completed their first Phase I clinical studies. The company has approximately 60 employees based at its headquarters in Berlin.

NOXXON's investors are NGN Capital, TVM Capital, Sofinnova Partners, Edmond de Rothschild Investment Partners, Deutsche Effecten- und Wechsel-Beteiligungsgesellschaft (DEWB), Seventure Partners, The Dow Chemical Company, Dieckell Group, Oppenheim Asset Management Services, IBG Risikokapitalfonds, VC Fonds Berlin, CD Ventures and others.