

Bionure appoints Dr. Laurent Nguyen as CEO

The neuroprotection biotech also strengthens its scientific team with the arrival of Dr. Amit Bar-Or, a multiple sclerosis specialist, to the Scientific Advisory Board

The ongoing phase 1 clinical trial of its neuroprotective and remyelinating compound BN201 is due for completion early 2019

Barcelona, Spain, October 9, 2018 - Bionure Farma, a biotech company specialized in neuroprotection, today announces the appointment of Dr. Laurent Nguyen as the new Chief Executive Officer of the company and names Dr. Amit Bar-Or as member of its Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) led by Dr. Pablo Villoslada, the scientific founder of the company.

The Chairman of Bionure, Guy P. Nohra, said "After a comprehensive executive search, the Board of Directors is very pleased to have attracted Dr. Nguyen, an accomplished executive, to assume leadership of Bionure, and to welcome Dr. Bar-Or to the SAB of the company as we are approaching the very exciting translational phase toward clinical proof-of-concept in patients with neurodegenerative diseases."

Dr. Laurent Nguyen, a French national, graduated as Doctor of Medicine and holds a Master's Degree in Public Health. Following a four-year residency at the Paris Hospital Group (Assistance Publique – Hopitaux de Paris), he built solid experience in the pharmaceutical industry at Hoechst-Roussel, Merck KGaA, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd and Pierre Fabre. He then moved to the biotech sector where he became CEO of a French academic spin-off that he developed into a publicly traded clinical biotech company. He reached phase 2 clinical trials with a portfolio of neuro-otology (inner ear disorders) products. He also acted as advisor in corporate development for several biotech and medtech companies.

"I'm excited about the Bionure project, which is a potential game-changer for patients living with neurodegenerative diseases. I'm eager to join the great team that has taken the project forward into clinical development," said Dr. Nguyen.

Bionure is also expanding its Scientific Advisory Board with the appointment of Dr. Amit Bar-Or, Director of the Center for Neuroinflammation and Experimental Therapeutics, Chief of the Multiple Sclerosis Center at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine (Philadelphia, USA) and President of the International Society of Neuroimmunology. Dr. Bar-Or trained at McGill Medical School in Montreal, the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Harvard Center for Neurological Diseases. He focuses his research on the roles of functionally distinct immune cell subsets in autoimmune disease and immune-CNS interactions. His clinical work is centered on multiple sclerosis and related conditions, in both children and adults.

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Promoting Neuroprotection

Bionure's lead compound, BN201, is a small molecule currently in clinical phase 1 study in the UK, with results expected at the beginning of 2019.

About Bionure

Bionure is a biotechnology company, a spin-off from the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona (Spain), developing the neuroprotectant BN201. BN201 is a small molecule currently in clinical phase 1 study in the UK. The phase 1 clinical trial is intended to investigate the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of single and multiple doses of BN201 in healthy volunteers. Results are expected in early 2019 and the company's plan is to start a phase 2a trial in 2019. The neuroprotective activity and the ability of BN201 to induce remyelination of the neuron shown in preclinical studies provide the basis for future research and clinical experiments for the treatment of several neurodegenerative diseases with high unmet needs, such as acute optic neuritis (AON, a rare ophthalmological disease) and multiple sclerosis (MS).

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