



Promethera[®] Biosciences Welcomes Dr. Sarah Snykers in its R&D Team

Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium, October 1st 2010 – Promethera[®] Biosciences an innovative stem cell therapy company dedicated to liver regenerative medicine announces that Dr. Sarah Snykers joined the company to lead its R&D team. She joined Promethera Biosciences SA from August 1, 2010, as R&D Manager.

Eric Halioua, CEO at Promethera[®] Biosciences, says: *“We are very pleased to welcome Sarah Snykers who is going to play a key role in developing Promethera Biosciences R&D organization. Sarah has all the qualities we were looking for to reinforce our team given her core scientific experience and managing skills within the field of molecular toxicology, in vitro toxicology, cell signalling, biotransformation, developmental biology and stem cell technology”*.

Dr. Sarah Snykers graduated in 2002 as a Pharmacist with highest distinction. She completed a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences on ‘the in vitro multipotency of postnatal progenitor cells’ at the Department of Toxicology, VUB. As an IWT-researcher, she successfully developed different strategies for the establishment of new stem/progenitor cell-based hepatic in vitro models, suitable for preclinical pharmaco-toxicological research and testing of drugs, cosmetics and new chemical entities (NCEs). After her PhD, she continued her initiated research work on postnatal stem cells as a postdoctoral fellow of the FWO-Vlaanderen Belgium at the Department of Toxicology, VUB. She was particularly assigned as scientific Manager of 2 EU projects of the 6th and 7th framework, i.e. EU FP6 Liintop, EU FP7 ESNATS, and two national stem cell projects, i.e. ISRIB-BruSTEM and BELSPO IUAP-Hepro. Today, she has more than 20 publications in international peer-reviewed journals and books. Her research work resulted in 2 patents concerning the production of mature and functional hepatocyte-like cells out of (1) adult bone marrow cells [PCT/EP2004/0012134] and (2) neonatal rat liver epithelial cells [PCT/EP2006/005622] by application of the developed ‘sequential’ differentiation protocol, including co-exposure to histone deacetylase inhibitors. In 2008, her work was internationally acknowledged by the scientific community by obtaining the SOT (Society of Toxicology) Award 2007, a high level recognition prize in the States. Besides her Master Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, she holds a postgraduate degree in Laboratory Animal Sciences (Felasa category C), obtained with highest distinction.



Dr. Sarah Snykers, R&D manager at Promethera[®] Biosciences, says: *“I am very excited to join Promethera Biosciences. I am determined to help the company to translate this breakthrough technology into value for patients and for Promethera[®] Biosciences Shareholders.”*

About Promethera[®] Biosciences (www.promethera.com)

Promethera[®] Biosciences’ mission is to discover, develop and commercialize cell therapy products so that liver diseases can be treated using allogeneic stem cells isolated from healthy human livers. Promethera[®] Biosciences intends to bring two different products to the market: **Promethera[®] HepaStem** and **Promethera[®] HepaScreen**. The cell therapy product **Promethera[®] HepaStem** is based on a newly discovered and proprietary progenitor cell type: Human Adult Liver Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells (hALDMSC) which can be used to cure a wide variety of liver diseases, from rare inborn metabolic diseases (orphan diseases), to larger acquired liver deficiencies such as liver fibrosis or fulminant hepatitis. The treatment has already received two orphan drug designations from the European Medicines Agency for the treatment of very debilitating pathologies affecting children and will be further developed to offer to these patients a real curative treatment. The same cell product developed as **Promethera[®] HepaScreen** will serve as a cell model for discovery as well as for pre-clinical departments of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry to mimic metabolism and detoxification of new drugs by the human liver.

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