OTHER NEWS TO NOTE

The FDA granted orphan drug status to MG01Cl (sustained release metadoxine), by **Alcobra Ltd**., of Tel Aviv, Israel, for treatment of fragile X syndrome. Alcobra's preclinical studies showed significant improvement in cognitive and social functioning after treatment with MG01Cl in an animal model of fragile X syndrome.

Biocon Ltd., of Bangalore, India, and Quark Pharmaceuticals Inc., of Fremont, Calif., said they inked a licensing and collaboration deal to develop a range of siRNA-based therapeutics. The collaboration will enable Biocon to co-develop, manufacture and commercialize QPI-1007, a siRNA candidate for ophthalmic conditions, for India and other key markets, and Biocon will have access to Quark's siRNA technology platform. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Biocryst Pharmaceuticals Inc., of Research Triangle Park, N.C., said it selected two optimized plasma kallikrein inhibitors to advance into preclinical development as potential once-daily, oral treatments for the prevention of hereditary angioedema (HAE) attacks. The second-generation program's goals include improving selectively and bioavailability compared to BCX4161, a selective kallikrein inhibitor in Phase II development for preventing HAE attacks.

Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH, of Ingelheim, Germany, and Circuit Therapeutics signed a collaboration agreement to discover therapies for psychiatric disorders. The partnership will apply Circuit's Optogenetics platform to identify new drug targets. Under the terms of the agreement, the companies will work together for three years.

Domain Therapeutics SA, of Strasbourg, France, said it signed a licensing and partnership agreement on G protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) biosensor technology with the Universite de Montreal and its commercialization unit, with the Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer – Commercialization of Research, as well as with McGill University. The deal gives Domain co-exclusive access to the biosensor technology, which makes it possible to discriminate the functional activation of intracellular signaling pathways associated with GPCRs.

Genmab A/S, of Copenhagen, and **Glaxosmithkline plc**, of London, said the FDA granted priority review designation to the supplemental biologics license application (sBLA) for the use of Arzerra (ofatumumab) in combination with an alkylator-based therapy, to be used for treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukemia patients who have not received prior treatment and are inappropriate for fludarabine-based therapy. The FDA has assigned a PDUFA date of April 19, 2014 for the sBLA.

Hutchison China Meditech Ltd. (Chi-Med), of Hong Kong, and **Sinopharm Group Co. Ltd**., of Beijing, said they established a joint venture to provide distribution and marketing services to both related and third party pharmaceutical companies in China. Chi-Med will invest about $9.8 million in cash into Sinopharm Holding Huyong Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. for the subscription of 51 percent of the equity in the enlarged share capital of Huyong, so that Huyong will be consolidated as a Chi-Med subsidiary. Sinopharm will hold the balance of 49 percent of the equity in Huyong.

An administrative law judge presiding over an International Trade Commission investigation involving **Neptune Technologies** and **Bioressources Inc.**, of Laval, Quebec, **Acasti Pahrma Inc**., a subsidiary of Neptune, **Enzymotec Ltd**., of Midgal Ha'emeq, Israel, and **Enzymotec USA Inc.** granted a joint motion by the parties to stay the proceedings for thirty days. Earlier in 2013, Neptune and Acasti filed with the ITC alleging infringement of Neptune's krill extract composition patents by Enzymotec and other companies in the industry. The purpose of the stay was to allow a final binding written settlement agreement so that the parties can file a motion to terminate the investigation.

STOCK MOVERS 12/18/2013

Company	Stock in $	Change in %
Nasdaq Biotechnology	+$59.51	+2.67%
Ariad Pharmaceuticals Inc.	+$0.82	+19.71%
Enanta Pharmaceuticals	-$7.88	-22.13%
Fluidigm Corp.	+$4.44	+14.04%
Halozyme Therapeutics Inc.	+$2.10	+16.60%
Omeros Corp.	+$1.61	+18.05%

Biotechs showing significant stock changes Thursday

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