



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SK Biopharmaceuticals and LifeSci Venture Partners Forge Ties for Open Innovation

*SK Biopharmaceuticals aims to promote open innovation and increase global competitiveness through venture capital partnerships*

**Pangyo, Gyeonggi Province, Korea, November 2, 2020** – [SK Biopharmaceuticals, Co., Ltd.](#), a global innovative pharmaceutical company, announced today the company has signed an agreement with the global life science venture capital firm LifeSci Venture Partners to collaborate on open innovation through a fund<sup>1</sup>.

The fund will invest primarily in private healthcare companies developing novel therapies and innovative technologies.

“As a strategic investor in the fund, SK Biopharmaceuticals plans to enhance its global competitiveness by expanding its partnerships with promising ventures for further growth,” said Changho Yu, Chief Strategy Officer of SK Biopharmaceuticals. “This partnership for open innovation is an important step forward that builds on our nearly three decades of research and development expertise.”

Paul Yook, Partner & Chief Investment Officer of LifeSci Venture Partners, added, “We are pleased to start this new collaboration with SK Biopharmaceuticals, a company that shares our passion and commitment to bringing innovative solutions to the healthcare system. By combining our expertise and connections in the life sciences industry and beyond, we aim to help promising early ventures accelerate scientific breakthroughs and technological innovations.”

SK Biopharmaceuticals discovered and developed two innovative and approved medicines — cenobamate and solriamfetol. Cenobamate was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), launching in May of 2020, and is being commercialized in the U.S. by the company’s subsidiary SK life science. The company also discovered and licensed-out solriamfetol, a treatment approved by the FDA and the European Medicines Agency. SK Biopharmaceuticals maintains the rights to develop and commercialize solriamfetol in 12 countries in Asia.

### **About SK Biopharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.**

SK Biopharmaceuticals and its U.S. subsidiary SK life science are global pharmaceutical companies focused on the research, development and commercialization of treatments for disorders of the central nervous system (CNS). The companies have a pipeline of eight compounds in development for the treatment of CNS disorders, including epilepsy. Additionally, SK Biopharmaceuticals is focused on early research in oncology. For more information, visit SK Biopharmaceuticals’ website at [www.skbp.com/eng](http://www.skbp.com/eng) and SK life science’s website at [www.SKLifeScienceInc.com](http://www.SKLifeScienceInc.com).

Both SK Biopharmaceuticals and SK life science are part of SK Group, one of the largest conglomerates in Korea. SK Holdings, the parent company of SK Biopharmaceuticals, continues to enhance its portfolio value by executing long-term investments with a number of competitive subsidiaries in various business

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<sup>1</sup> LifeSci Venture Partners II, LP

areas, including pharmaceuticals and life science, energy and chemicals, information and telecommunication, and semiconductors. In addition, SK Holdings is focused on reinforcing its growth foundations through profitable and practical management based on financial stability, while raising its enterprise value by investing in new future growth businesses. For more information, please visit <http://hc.sk.co.kr/en/>.

#### **About LifeSci Venture Partners**

Formed in 2017, LifeSci Venture Partners is the early stage investing arm of LifeSci Partners, a unique life sciences and healthcare consultancy formed in 2010. It focuses on pre-public institutional rounds of transformational healthcare companies managed by exceptional founder/entrepreneurs. Its most recent fund, LifeSci Venture Partners II, LP (the "Fund") was launched in 2020 and has made private investments in numerous companies with novel oncology and CNS expertise including Erasca, Athira Pharma (NASDAQ: ATHA), Allievex Corporation, Science 37 and Senti Bio. ELA Partners, LLC acted as exclusive placement agent for the Fund's capital raise. For further information, please visit the company's website at <https://www.lifesciventure.com/>.

#### **About Cenobamate**

Cenobamate was discovered and developed by SK Biopharmaceuticals and SK life science. While the precise mechanism by which cenobamate exerts its therapeutic effect is unknown, it is believed to reduce repetitive neuronal firing by inhibiting voltage-gated sodium currents. It is also a positive allosteric modulator of the  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid (GABA<sub>A</sub>) ion channel.

Cenobamate is approved in the United States as an anti-seizure medication (ASM) for the treatment of partial-onset seizures in adults, and is available under the brand name XCOPRI<sup>®</sup> (cenobamate tablets) CV. SK Biopharmaceuticals has an exclusive licensing agreement with Arvelle Therapeutics GmbH to develop and commercialize cenobamate in Europe and an exclusive licensing agreement with Ono Pharmaceutical to develop and commercialize cenobamate in Japan.

#### **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION AND INDICATION FOR XCOPRI<sup>®</sup> (cenobamate tablets) CV**

##### **DO NOT TAKE XCOPRI IF YOU:**

- Are allergic to cenobamate or any of the other ingredients in XCOPRI.
- Have a genetic problem (called Familial Short QT syndrome) that affects the electrical system of the heart.

##### **XCOPRI CAN CAUSE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, INCLUDING:**

**Allergic reactions: XCOPRI can cause serious skin rash or other serious allergic reactions which may affect organs and other parts of your body like the liver or blood cells.** You may or may not have a rash with these types of reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away and go to the nearest emergency room if you have any of the following: swelling of your face, eyes, lips, or tongue, trouble swallowing or breathing, a skin rash, hives, fever, swollen glands, or sore throat that does not go away or comes and goes, painful sores in the mouth or around your eyes, yellowing of your skin or eyes, unusual bruising or bleeding, severe fatigue or weakness, severe muscle pain, frequent infections, or infections that do not go away. **Take XCOPRI exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. It is very important to increase your dose of XCOPRI slowly, as instructed by your healthcare provider.**

**QT shortening: XCOPRI may cause problems with the electrical system of the heart (QT shortening).** Call your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of QT shortening including fast heartbeat (heart palpitations) that last a long time or fainting.

**Suicidal behavior and ideation:** Antiepileptic drugs, including XCOPRI, may cause suicidal thoughts or actions in a very small number of people, about 1 in 500. Call your health care provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you: thoughts about suicide or dying; attempting to commit suicide; new or worse depression, anxiety, or irritability; feeling agitated or restless; panic attacks; trouble sleeping (insomnia); acting aggressive; being angry or violent; acting on dangerous impulses; an extreme increase in activity and talking (mania); or other unusual changes in behavior or mood.

**Nervous system problems:** XCOPRI may cause problems that affect your nervous system. Symptoms of nervous system problems include: dizziness, trouble walking or with coordination, feeling sleepy and tired, trouble concentrating, remembering, and thinking clearly, and vision problems. **Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities until you know how XCOPRI affects you.**

**Do not drink alcohol or take other medicines that can make you sleepy or dizzy while taking XCOPRI without first talking to your healthcare provider.**

#### **DISCONTINUATION:**

**Do not stop taking XCOPRI without first talking to your healthcare provider.** Stopping XCOPRI suddenly can cause serious problems. Stopping seizure medicine suddenly in a patient who has epilepsy can cause seizures that will not stop (status epilepticus).

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

XCOPRI may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how XCOPRI works. **Do not start or stop other medicines without talking to your healthcare provider.** Tell healthcare providers about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.

#### **PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:**

XCOPRI may cause your birth control medicine to be less effective. **Talk to your health care provider about the best birth control method to use.**

**Talk to your health care provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if XCOPRI will harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant while taking XCOPRI. You and your healthcare provider will decide if you should take XCOPRI while you are pregnant. If you become pregnant while taking XCOPRI, talk to your healthcare provider about registering with the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the safety of antiepileptic medicine during pregnancy. You can enroll in this registry by calling 1-888-233-2334 or go to [www.aedpregnancyregistry.org](http://www.aedpregnancyregistry.org).

**Talk to your health care provider if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.** It is not known if XCOPRI passes into breastmilk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby while taking XCOPRI.

#### **COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:**

The most common side effects in patients taking XCOPRI include dizziness, sleepiness, headache, double vision, and feeling tired.

These are not all the possible side effects of XCOPRI. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. **Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088** or at [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

**DRUG ABUSE:**

**XCOPRI is a federally controlled substance (CV) because it can be abused or lead to dependence.** Keep XCOPRI in a safe place to prevent misuse and abuse. Selling or giving away XCOPRI may harm others and is against the law.

**INDICATION:**

XCOPRI is a prescription medicine used to treat partial-onset seizures in adults 18 years of age and older. It is not known if XCOPRI is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

Please see additional patient information in the [Medication Guide](#). This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your condition or your treatment.

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#).

*XCOPRI® is a registered trademark of SK Biopharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.*

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