

Antwerpen (BE) / Medfield, MA (US), 30 November 2020, 8:00 AM CET (embargo)

## **Gimv investeert in Kinaset Therapeutics via een Serie A-investeringsronde van 40 miljoen USD voor de ontwikkeling van nieuwe inhalatietherapieën voor zware astma-aandoeningen**

Gimv investeert samen met 5AM Ventures en Atlas Venture via een Serie A-investeringsronde van 40 miljoen USD in Kinaset Therapeutics. Het bedrijf zal met deze fondsen de klinische ontwikkeling van KN-002 verderzetten, een nieuwe droge-poeder-inhaleerbare pan-JAK-inhibitor, voor de behandeling van ernstig astma.

Kinaset Therapeutics kondigde vandaag ook een exclusieve wereldwijde inlicentiëring- en ontwikkelingsovereenkomst aan met Vectura Group plc (LSE: VEC) voor de ontwikkeling en commercialisering van KN-002 (voorheen gekend als VR588). Gepland is om in de eerste jaarhelft van 2021 een fase 1/1b klinische studie bij gezonde vrijwilligers en patiënten te starten.

Astma is een complexe en heterogene ziekte die wereldwijd meer dan 300 miljoen mensen treft, waarvan ongeveer 10% van de patiënten met ernstig astma kampt. Kinaset Therapeutics wil nieuwe therapieën ontwikkelen voor deze patiëntenpopulatie. Het bedrijf kan hiervoor rekenen op een ervaren managementteam en een raad van bestuur met een sterke reputatie in de ontwikkeling van respiratoire therapieën.

**Bram Vanparys, Partner bij Gimv**, licht toe: *"Ik ben verheugd dat Gimv deel uitmaakt van Kinaset Therapeutics en op die manier het bedrijf ondersteunt bij de ontwikkeling van KN-002. Kinaset Therapeutics past perfect in de Life Sciences strategie van Gimv, namelijk investeren in bedrijven die geneesmiddelen ontwikkelen met focus op sterke wetenschap, een solide data-pakket en een ervaren team."*

**Thomas Harth, Senior Associate bij Gimv**, voegt hieraan toe: *"Het best-in-class profiel en de op maat gemaakte droge poedersamenstelling van Kinaset Therapeutics hebben van bij het begin onze interesse gewekt. Samen met dit zeer ervaren en toegewijde managementteam zijn we ervan overtuigd dat KN-002 een echt verschil kan maken voor patiënten met ernstige astma die vandaag slechts beperkte behandelingsmogelijkheden hebben."*

Voor meer informatie verwijzen we naar het persbericht van Kinaset Therapeutics in bijlage.

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### **OVER GIMV**

Gimv is een Europese investeringsmaatschappij, genoteerd op Euronext Brussel. Met 40 jaar ervaring in private equity en venture capital, heeft Gimv vandaag 2,0 miljard EUR onder beheer. De portefeuille is geïnvesteerd in ongeveer 50 portefeuillebedrijven die samen een omzet van 2,5 miljard EUR realiseren en 14 000 professionals tewerkstellen.

Als erkend marktleider in geselecteerde investeringsplatformen identificeert Gimv ondernemende en innoverende bedrijven met een groot groeipotentieel en begeleidt ze in hun transformatie tot marktleiders. De vier investeringsplatformen zijn: Connected Consumer, Health & Care, Smart Industries en Sustainable Cities. Elk van deze platformen werkt met een ervaren team in de thuismarkten van Gimv (Benelux, Frankrijk en DACH) en kan rekenen op een uitgebreid internationaal netwerk van deskundigen.

[www.gimv.com](http://www.gimv.com)

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Voor meer informatie, gelieve contact op te nemen met:

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# KINASET THERAPEUTICS

**NOT FOR RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 7AM ET, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020**

**Kinaset Therapeutics Launches with a \$40M Series A Financing to Develop Novel Therapeutics for Respiratory Diseases and an Exclusive Global License Agreement with Vectura Group for KN-002 (VR588), a Novel Anti-Inflammatory**

- *Founded by serial bioentrepreneur Robert Clarke, Ph.D., with Roger Heerman, MBA, and Frazer Morgan, the executive leadership has over sixty-five combined years of biopharma experience and significant expertise in respiratory drug development and commercialization*
- *Venture syndicate with deep experience investing in respiratory and inflammatory diseases includes co-leads 5AM Ventures and Atlas Venture, with participation from leading European investor Gimv*
- *Agreements with Vectura include an exclusive global license to KN-002, a novel pan-JAK inhibitor, as well as a services agreement to support clinical trial supply and CMC activities leveraging Vectura's CDMO leadership in the field of inhaled therapeutics*
- *Company's lead program is initially focused on the unmet need in eosinophilic and non-eosinophilic severe asthma patients with a Phase 1/1b study planned in 1H 2021*

MEDFIELD, MA, November 30, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Kinaset Therapeutics, Inc. (“Kinaset” or the “Company”), a newly-founded biopharmaceutical company, today announced a \$40 million Series A financing with a blue-chip investor syndicate of 5AM Ventures, Atlas Venture, and Gimv. The Company also announced an exclusive global in-license and services agreement with Vectura Group plc (LSE: VEC) (“Vectura”) to develop and commercialize KN-002 (formerly known as VR588), a novel, inhaled small-molecule pan-JAK inhibitor, for the treatment of eosinophilic and non-eosinophilic severe asthma. A Phase 1/1b clinical trial in healthy volunteers and patients is poised to begin in the first half of 2021.

Kinaset is led by an experienced management team and Board of Directors with strong backgrounds in the development of respiratory therapeutics. The company is led by Chief Executive Officer Robert Clarke (formerly Pulmatrix, AIR/Alkermes), Chief Business Officer Roger Heerman (GlaxoSmithKline, Vectura), and Chief Development Officer Frazer Morgan (Vectura, 3M), each of whom has over 20 years of experience in the industry. Thomas B. King (Alexza, Vivus), Chairman of the Board, is joined on the Kinaset Board of Directors by founding investors Jamil Beg (5AM), Kevin Bitterman (Atlas), and Bram Vanparys (Gimv).

Kinaset is responsible for the overall development and commercialization of KN-002, with Vectura providing formulation development expertise and manufacturing of clinical trial



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supplies. The Company will pay Vectura fees for development services, certain regulatory and commercial milestones, and future royalties on global net sales in return for the license.

“I am excited to be part of Kinaset Therapeutics and their plans to deliver a next-generation therapeutic for the severe asthma population. The highly experienced management team and board coupled with the exclusive global license from Vectura provide a great springboard for the launch of Kinaset.” said Thomas B King. He added “Vectura’s profile as a world-class CDMO with multiple approved inhaled therapeutics make them a trusted partner as we move KN-002 to our upcoming clinical trial.”

Robert Clarke, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, and a co-founder of Kinaset Therapeutics, commented on the company and the KN-002 program, “Our goal is to build Kinaset into a leading respiratory therapeutics company focused on patients starting with KN-002. Severe asthmatics continue to suffer from the limited availability of safe and effective treatment options. We believe that our inhaled pan-JAK inhibitor, KN-002, has the potential to be a best-in-class therapeutic for this population. In addition, KN-002 could be a less-invasive and more cost-effective alternative to currently approved parenteral biologicals used in the treatment of severe asthma.”

Jamil M. Beg, Partner at 5AM Ventures and Director at Kinaset, commented, “The field of respiratory drug development has made incredible strides over recent years. Biologics have validated immunomodulatory approaches and advanced the standard of care for patients. However, there remains a significant need and burden on patients, especially in the severe asthma population. We see KN-002 as having transformational potential for patients and are excited to support a dedicated team at Kinaset that is building the next leading respiratory disease company.”

## **Unmet Clinical Needs**

Asthma is a complex and heterogeneous disease affecting over 300 million people worldwide, with approximately 10% of patients having severe asthma.<sup>1,2</sup> Subjects with severe uncontrolled asthma suffer from frequent exacerbations, compromised lung function, and a reduced quality of life.<sup>1-3</sup> This group is associated with a disproportionate number of asthma-related hospitalizations<sup>4,5</sup> and accounts for approximately 50% of asthma-related costs.<sup>6</sup>

Multiple inflammatory pathways are implicated in the pathogenesis of asthma.<sup>7-9</sup> Eosinophilic asthma, characterized by elevated levels of blood eosinophils and fractional exhaled nitric oxide<sup>10</sup>, accounts for about two-thirds of patients with severe asthma.<sup>9</sup> Conversely, a large proportion of subjects do not exhibit an eosinophilic profile and suffer from an inadequate response to parenteral biologicals and oral corticosteroids resulting in a loss of asthma control.<sup>1-3</sup> Therefore, additional therapeutics to support these non-eosinophilic patients represent a significant need in asthma control.

## **About Kinaset Therapeutics, Inc.**

At Kinaset Therapeutics, we intend to develop novel therapeutics that can positively impact people affected by intractable diseases, including severe asthma. Our novel lead asset and



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experienced team combine a potentially best in class approach to treating severe asthma with a group of dedicated drug development experts working to bring the therapy forward. More information can be found at [www.kinasettherapeutics.com](http://www.kinasettherapeutics.com).

## About Vectura

Vectura is a provider of innovative inhaled drug delivery services that enable partners to bring their medicines to patients. With differentiated proprietary technology and pharmaceutical development expertise, Vectura is one of the few companies globally with the device, formulation, and development capabilities to deliver a broad range of complex inhaled therapeutics.

For further information, please visit Vectura's website at [www.vectura.com](http://www.vectura.com)

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## References:

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- <sup>5</sup> World Allergy Organization (WAO).  
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