

MOLEAC: THERAPEUTICS FROM EAST TO WEST

Moleac identifies promising medicines discovered in China and develops them into Western mainstream medicines to bridge gaps in Western therapeutic approaches. David Picard, Moleac CEO, tells FOCUS why Singapore provides Moleac with an ideal platform for facilitating the flow of both knowledge and products from China to the West.

Moleac is a bio-pharma company based in Singapore which was founded in 2003 by a group of esteemed Chinese and French scientists and businessmen. Its founding team includes, on the French side, renowned scientists such as Professor Etienne Baulieu and Professor Charpak, as well as industry leaders from savvy companies such as the Tang Freres Group, which specialises in bridging the gap between China and the West.

At Moleac our central mission is to 'data-mine' Chinese medicine in order to identify, develop and market innovative medical treatments that fulfil unmet needs in Western medicine. We wanted to explore a new approach to developing medicines. We decided to use knowledge which already exists in China but is unknown in the West – rather than going through the usual process of developing drugs from scratch, something that costs hundreds of millions of dollars in the West.

I settled in Singapore to start up the company, having spent ten years with the Boston Consulting Group in France and China. Singapore makes a lot of sense as a base from which to orchestrate the transition of medicine and knowledge from China into the West. It has a very good infrastructure, a large talent pool, and a good legal framework – especially for intellectual property.

The hospital infrastructure is excellent and there are many highly regarded clinicians with whom we are able to implement clinical

development in a very effective manner locally. Furthermore, the Economic Development Board and the government are strongly supporting the development of the life sciences industry in Singapore. They facilitate a lot of the day-to-day operations and networking in the local and international community.

“Bridging the gap between China and the West.”

Over the past three years we have cemented the Moleac business model by successfully identifying promising opportunities in China, acquiring the rights to the medicines and identifying therapeutics, implementing Western style clinical trials in Asia and bringing the products to market.

The first product to be developed in this way is a traditional Chinese medicine which helps to recover from stroke (www.neuroaid.com). The product has been brought to market in less than two years and we now market it in Singapore. Neuroaid has an excellent safety profile and strong efficacy data based on clinical trials held previously in China. In the short term we are bringing Neuroaid to the international market as a natural medicine or food supplement in order to meet the needs of stroke survivors. Additional Western style clinical trials for Neuroaid will soon begin under the leadership of French and Singaporean neurologists. These trials will support the future

upgrade of Neuroaid into a drug. The next product in the Moleac pipeline is a smoking cessation device with a market launch planned in 2007. A portfolio of several other high-potential products has been identified and we are initiating the necessary development work to bring these products to market in the near future.

I am optimistic. Looking towards the future, the key is now to vamp up our operations and model. We need to successfully reach the international markets from Singapore and continue to build up our portfolio of products. **FOCUS**

For more information contact www.moleac.net

Top: Neuroaid helps to recover from stroke

Bottom: Mr David Picard, Moleac CEO

