

## **Xgene Pharma and NeuroGen Enter into Exclusive License Agreement for XG005, an Innovative Non-Opioid Analgesic in China**

In July 2025, Xgene Pharmaceutical Inc. and its affiliates (“**Xgene Pharma**”) announced an exclusive licensing collaboration with Concord Acquisition (HK) Limited and its affiliates (“**NeuroGen**”) for the XG005, an innovative non-opioid analgesic. Under the agreement, NeuroGen is granted exclusive rights of development, registration, manufacturing, and commercialization of XG005 in Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, and Macau. Xgene Pharma will retain the worldwide rights to XG005, excluding Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, and Macau. Xgene Pharma will be eligible to receive an upfront payment, development and sales-based milestone payments, as well as tiered royalties on net sales.

### **About XG005**

XG005 is an innovative oral, non-opioid analgesic discovered and developed by Xgene Pharma with full proprietary intellectual property. Designed to treat both inflammatory and neuropathic pain, XG005 acts through a dual mechanism by inhibiting cyclooxygenase (COX) and modulating peripheral  $\alpha 2\delta$  calcium channels, effectively disrupting pain signal transmission at multiple levels. This multi-modal pain control offers superior clinical efficacy while minimizing common side effects associated with long-term use of existing pain medications, such as gastrointestinal and central nervous system adverse events.

XG005 has demonstrated statistically significant and clinically meaningful results in a completed Phase II/III study for bunionectomy pain in the U.S., with marked reductions in pain intensity over 48 hours versus placebo. Notably, 43% of patients required no rescue medication, and 74% avoided any opioid use. In a completed Phase IIb study in Chinese osteoarthritis patients, XG005 showed statistically significant improvements in pain, joint function, and stiffness compared to placebo—outcomes not previously observed in approved osteoarthritis treatments. A Phase III trial in abdominal surgery pain is expected to initiate in the U.S. in 2025, with plans to submit an NDA afterwards.

### **The Pain Management Market**

The global pain management market holds tremendous potential. According to Frost & Sullivan, the market grew from USD 63.7 billion in 2020 to USD 73.5 billion in 2023, with a CAGR of 4.9%. It is projected to reach USD 93.3 billion by 2027 and USD 107.5 billion by 2030. Compared to traditional opioid treatments for acute pain, non-opioid analgesics offer distinct advantages in terms of addiction potential, safety profile, pain type applicability, and postoperative use. Developing safe and effective non-opioid analgesics has become a critical unmet need and a key focus in the pain therapeutics landscape.

### **Strategic Partnership**

**Dr. Gene Hsu, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Xgene Pharma, stated:**

*"There is a growing clinical need for safer and more effective non-opioid pain therapies. Compared with current treatment options, XG005 shows clear advantages in both efficacy and safety, and its oral formulation enables outpatient use after surgery, potentially reducing hospitalization costs. We are pleased to partner with NeuroGen,*



*whose local platform and capabilities will help accelerate XG005's commercialization in China. This partnership will enable us to bring XG005 to patients faster and further drive forward its global clinical development and commercialization, along with our broader pipeline."*

### **About Xgene Pharma**

Founded in 2016, Xgene Pharma is led by a world-class R&D team and clinical experts. The company develops novel dual-targeted conjugate molecules using proprietary technologies to address unmet clinical needs through multi-modal mechanisms, delivering high-efficacy and low-toxicity therapies. Beyond XG005, the company's pipeline includes XG004, an innovative transdermal analgesic for peripheral and inflammatory pain, which has completed Phase Ib/IIa trials and demonstrated strong safety and efficacy. Another asset, XG2002, a TRPM8 ion channel inhibitor, has potential across a range of neuropathic pain indications and has completed single ascending dose studies in healthy volunteers. Xgene is committed to scientific rigor and global collaboration to translate cutting-edge science into breakthrough treatments that improve human health and well-being.

### **About NeuroGen**

NeuroGen was launched in the end of 2024 after the acquisition of UCB's mature neurology and allergy business in China by CBC Group ("CBC") and Mubadala Investment Company ("Mubadala"). The transaction includes UCB's well-known brands such as Keppra®, Vimpat®, Neupro®, Zyrtec®, Xyzal®, and the Zhuhai manufacturing facility.

Since inception, NeuroGen has been guided by an experienced management team with a proven track record in the pharma industry, ensuring a strong foundation for future growth. NeuroGen aims to deliver high-quality treatments driven by cutting-edge research and innovation to address evolving patient needs and improve outcomes in neurology care and pain management.