New Drugs Against Neurological Diseases (NEU²) Consortium

At a Glance

- **Status:** Active Consortium
- **Year Launched:** 2007
- **Initiating Organization:** Bionamics GmbH
- **Initiator Type:** Government
- **Rare disease**
- **Location:** Europe

Research Areas

Abstract

The New Drugs Against Neurological Diseases (NEU²) consortium has defined as its “core” endeavor, the development of novel therapies addressing neuro-degenerative conditions with a specific focus on multiple sclerosis (MS). The NEU² consortium, with the support of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), has created a public-private framework that uses biological, clinical, and technological insights to identify and progress treatments for MS.

Mission

The NEU² consortium integrates and synergistically refines existing MS expertise from academic centers, biotech, and pharma companies. Its specific indication focus is in MS, but the NEU² members are representative of the major links in the drug discovery and development value chain. Each contributes one or more of its core clinical, scientific, or technical competencies, providing NEU² as a whole, with the necessary know-how to discover new therapies for MS and progress them to the clinic in order to benefit patients. The consortium is coordinated by Evotec International GmbH (Evotec).
This new drug discovery and development format enjoys the support of the BMBF. The NEU² parties attracted more than EUR 20 Mio of public funds as part of the “BioPharma Initiative,” which helps to fund the execution of the consortium’s project portfolio until 2017.

The NEU² portfolio encompasses early-stage hit discovery through to mature Phase II clinical programs. In each case, projects are invited to make use of the many existing NEU² competencies, from biomarker discovery and implementation to clinical trial design based on innovative imaging endpoints. Hands-on access to the comprehensive know-how and technologies necessary to deliver individual project content is available through the NEU² platforms, and consortium members are intimately involved in platform operation and defining their future development as scientific techniques in drug discovery evolve.

NEU²’s core focus is to

Structure & Governance

The decision-making body of NEU² is the NEU² Steering Committee, which consists of each of the NEU² consortium members and is chaired by Evotec International as its coordinator. The coordinator acts as the intermediary between the NEU² members and the BMBF.

The original founder of the NEU² consortium was Bionamics GmbH, with Timm-H. Jessen acting as CEO. Before starting Bionamics and developing the NEU² concept, Jessen led Evotec AG as chief science officer and member of the Executive Management Team through its initial public offering (IPO) in 1999, its acquisition of OAI Ltd., Oxford, and its growth into a mid-size international service and discovery company. Jessen has substantial drug discovery as well as business development expertise, and during his years at Hoechst AG and Evotec he accrued a deep understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of today’s pharma and biotech industries.

In spring 2014 Bionamics GmbH was acquired by Evotec. Jessen became executive vice president responsible for the business development of Evotec’s Innovate business. As part of his responsibilities, Jessen continues as coordinator of the NEU² consortium. Within Evotec, Jessen is supported by a team of experts with substantial experience at the interfaces between academic research, biotech, and the pharmaceutical industry.
New Drugs Against Neurological Diseases (NEU2)

Links/Social Media Feed

Homepage
http://neu-quadrat.de/

Points of Contact

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