



## **ZAMBON LAUNCHES XADAGO® (SAFINAMIDE) IN THE NETHERLANDS FOR PATIENTS WITH MID- TO LATE-STAGE PARKINSON'S DISEASE**

- *Zambon today announces the launch in the Netherlands of Xadago® (safinamide) as an add-on to levodopa alone or in combination with other Parkinson's disease (PD) medications, in mid- to late-stage PD*
- *Safinamide is a new chemical entity with a unique dopaminergic and non-dopaminergic mode of action*

**Milan, Italy – July 6, 2016** – Zambon S.p.A., an international pharmaceutical company strongly committed to the central nervous system (CNS) therapeutic area, and its partner Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A. ("Newron") (SIX: NWRN), a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel therapies for patients with diseases of the central nervous system (CNS) and pain, today announced the launch of Xadago® (safinamide) in the Netherlands for the treatment of mid- to late-stage Parkinson's disease (PD).

Safinamide is now available in the Netherlands as an add-on therapy to a stable dose of levodopa (L-dopa) alone or in combination with other PD therapies for mid- to late-stage fluctuating patients providing a balanced control of motor symptoms and motor complications.

Prof. Bas Bloem, from Radboud Universitair Medisch Centrum Nijmegen, medical advisor to Zambon, commented: *"Despite optimal medical management, Parkinson's disease remains a very debilitating disease. That is why I am excited to see the introduction of safinamide as a new treatment option for Parkinson in fluctuating patients. Safinamide has an interesting dual dopaminergic and non-dopaminergic mode of action, including the modulation of altered glutamatergic neurotransmission. As such, safinamide has the potential of becoming a long awaited treatment alternative as add on to L-dopa prolonging the window of L-dopa efficacy without worsening motor complications. I look forward to seeing which type of patients will benefit most in daily clinical practice."*

Elena Zambon, President of Zambon, said: *"Zambon has a strong commitment to Parkinson's disease, and we continue to look at ways to address unmet needs of patients that can benefit from new treatment options in the CNS therapeutic area."*

With the addition of the Netherlands, Xadago® is now available in ten countries: Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, UK and Luxembourg.

### **About Xadago® (safinamide)**

Safinamide is a new chemical entity with a unique mode of action, including selective and reversible MAO-B-inhibition and blocking of voltage dependent sodium channels, which leads to modulation of abnormal glutamate release. Clinical trials have established its efficacy in controlling motor symptoms and motor complications in the short term, maintaining this effect over 2 years. Results from 24 month double-blind controlled studies suggest that safinamide shows statistically significant effects on motor fluctuations (ON/OFF time) without increasing the risk of developing troublesome dyskinesia. This effect may be related to its dual mechanism acting on both the dopaminergic and the glutamatergic pathways. Safinamide is a once-daily dose and has no diet restrictions due to its high MAO-B/MAO-A selectivity. Zambon has the rights to develop and commercialize Xadago® globally, excluding Japan and other key territories where Meiji Seika has the rights to develop and commercialize the compound. The rights to develop and commercialize Xadago® in the USA have been granted to US WorldMeds, by Zambon.

#### **References:**

Two-year, randomized, controlled study of safinamide as add-on to levodopa in mid to late Parkinson's disease. Borgohain, Rupam; Szasz, Jozsef; Stanzione, Paolo; Meshram, Chandrashekhar; Bhatt, Mohit H et al. (2014) *Movement disorders : official journal of the Movement Disorder Society* vol. 29 (10) p. 1273-80.

Anand R: Safinamide is associated with clinically important improvement in motor symptoms in fluctuating PD patients as add-on to levodopa (SETTLE). 17th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, Sydney, Australia, June 16-20, 2013.

### **About Parkinson's disease**

PD is the second most common chronic progressive neurodegenerative disorder in the elderly after Alzheimer's disease, affecting 1-2% of individuals aged  $\geq 65$  years worldwide. The prevalence of the PD market is expected to grow in the next years due to the increase in the global population and advancements in healthcare that contribute to an aging population at increased risk for PD. The diagnosis of PD is mainly based on observational criteria of muscular rigidity, resting tremor, or postural instability in combination with bradykinesia. As the disease progresses, symptoms become more severe. Early-stage patients are more easily managed on L-dopa. L-dopa remains as the most effective treatment for PD, and over 75% of the patients with PD receive L-dopa. However, long term treatment with L-dopa leads to seriously debilitating motor fluctuations, i.e. phases of normal functioning (ON-time) and decreased functioning (OFF-time). Furthermore, as a result of the use of high doses of L-dopa with increasing severity of the disease, many patients experience involuntary movements known as L-dopa-Induced Dyskinesia (LID). As the disease progresses, more drugs are used as an add-on to what the patient already takes, and the focus is to treat symptoms while managing LID and the "off-time" effects of L-dopa. Most current therapies target the dopaminergic system that is implicated in the pathogenesis of PD, and most current treatments act by increasing dopaminergic transmission that leads to amelioration of motor symptoms.

#### **References:**

BMC Oertel. European Handbook of Neurological Management, Vol1, Chapter 14 & 15, 2011.  
NICE PD guideline, 2006.

### **About Zambon**

Zambon is a leading Italian pharmaceutical and fine-chemical multinational company that has earned a strong reputation over the years for high quality products and services. Zambon is well-established in 3 therapeutic areas: respiratory, pain and woman care, and is very strongly committed to its entry into the CNS space. Zambon SpA produces high quality products thanks to the management of the whole production chain which involves Zach (Zambon chemical), a privileged partner for API, custom synthesis and generic products. The Group is strongly working on the treatment of the chronic respiratory diseases as asthma and BPCO and on the CNS therapeutic area with Xadago® (safinamide) for the Parkinson treatment. Zambon is headquartered in Milan and was established in 1906 in Vicenza. Zambon is present in 19 countries with subsidiaries and almost 2,700 employees with manufacturing units in Italy, Switzerland, France, China and Brazil. Zambon products are commercialized in 84 countries.

For details on Zambon please see: [www.zambongroup.com](http://www.zambongroup.com)

### **About Newron Pharmaceuticals**

Newron (SIX: NWRN) is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel therapies for patients with diseases of the central nervous system (CNS) and pain. The Company is headquartered in Bresso near Milan, Italy. In addition to Xadago® for Parkinson's disease, Newron has a strong pipeline of promising treatments for rare disease patients at various stages of clinical development. For more information, please visit: [www.newron.com](http://www.newron.com)

## Further Information

Media	Investors and Analysts
<p><b>Zambon</b> Luca Primavera - CCO Phone: +39 02 66524491 Mobile: +39 335 7247417 Email: <a href="mailto:luca.primavera@zambongroup.com">luca.primavera@zambongroup.com</a></p> <p><b>Italy</b> Milva Naguib Phone: +39 02 66524095 Mobile: +39 3459215675 Email: <a href="mailto:milva.naguib@zambongroup.com">milva.naguib@zambongroup.com</a></p> <p><b>Newron</b> Stefan Weber - CEO Phone: +39 02 6103 46 30 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ir@newron.com">ir@newron.com</a></p> <p><b>UK/Europe</b> Julia Phillips FTI Consulting Phone: +44 (0)20 3727 1000</p> <p><b>Switzerland</b> Martin Meier-Pfister IRF Communications Phone: +41 43 244 81 40</p> <p><b>Germany</b> Anne Hennecke MC Services AG Phone: +49 211 52925222 <a href="mailto:anne.hennecke@mc-services.eu">anne.hennecke@mc-services.eu</a></p> <p><b>U.S.</b> Alison Chen LaVoieHealthScience Phone: +1 617 374 8800, Ext. 104 <a href="mailto:achen@lavoiehealthscience.com">achen@lavoiehealthscience.com</a></p>	<p><b>Newron</b> Stefan Weber - CEO Phone: +39 02 6103 46 30 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ir@newron.com">ir@newron.com</a></p> <p><b>UK/Europe</b> Julia Phillips FTI Consulting Phone: +44 (0)20 3727 1000</p> <p><b>Switzerland</b> Martin Meier-Pfister IRF Communications Phone: +41 43 244 81 40</p> <p><b>Germany/Europe</b> Anne Hennecke MC Services AG Phone: +49 211 52925222 <a href="mailto:anne.hennecke@mc-services.eu">anne.hennecke@mc-services.eu</a></p> <p><b>U.S.</b> Beth Kurth LaVoieHealthScience Phone: +1 617 374 8800, Ext. 106 <a href="mailto:bkurth@lavoiehealthscience.com">bkurth@lavoiehealthscience.com</a></p>

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