Basel, Switzerland and Shanghai, China – 15 April 2013

Roche and Ascletis enter collaboration to advance treatment options for Chinese patients with Hepatitis C

Roche (SIX: RO, ROG; OTCQX: RHHBY) and Ascletis announced today that they have entered into a collaboration to develop and commercialize Roche’s investigational drug danoprevir in China for the treatment of Hepatitis-C Virus (HCV).

It is estimated that over 10 million patients in China are chronically infected with HCV. The majority of these are genotype 1b, which has proven highly responsive to danoprevir. Roche and Ascletis are joining forces to develop a therapy with the potential to address a serious public health problem and to provide an effective new treatment option for Chinese patients with HCV.

Under the terms of the agreement, Ascletis will fund and be responsible for the development, regulatory affairs and manufacturing of danoprevir in greater China, including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau and receive payments upon reaching certain development and commercial milestones from Roche. Ascletis and Roche will collaborate for the clinical development and the commercialization. The contract also involves royalties.

Commenting on the agreement, Luke Miels, Head of Roche Pharmaceuticals Asia Pacific, said: “Our strategy is based on bringing innovative, differentiated medicines to patients. The decision to develop danoprevir based on its promising profile in HCV Genotype 1b, and to do this via collaboration with our partner Ascletis represents another example of this strategy in action.”

Jinzi J. Wu, PhD, President and CEO at Ascletis added: “No marketed direct antiviral agents (DAAs) are currently available for hepatitis C in China. Roche is a global leader in the development of innovative Hepatitis C therapies, and we are pleased to be collaborating with Roche to develop and eventually commercialize this much needed medicine for Chinese patients. Furthermore, we are very encouraged by the clinical data that have emerged to date and looking forward to bringing this novel DAA to patients in need.”
**About danoprevir**

Danoprevir is an investigational protease inhibitor from Roche that is active against HCV genotypes 1 and 4. Protease inhibitors have become a core component of highly effective future HCV treatments.

**About Ascletis**

Ascletis is an emerging biotechnology company, dedicated to discovering, developing and commercializing important new treatments for cancer and infectious diseases. Ascletis is focused on clinical development of innovative medicines and commercialization for the growing Chinese pharmaceutical marketplace. Ascletis has assembled an entrepreneurial management and senior scientific team with a track record of successful pharmaceutical discovery and development at major global pharmaceutical and emerging biotechnology companies in the United States and Europe. For more information, please visit [www.ascletis.com](http://www.ascletis.com) outside China or [www.ascletis.com.cn](http://www.ascletis.com.cn) inside China.

**About Roche**

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world’s largest biotech company, with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, infectious diseases, inflammation, metabolism and neuroscience. Roche is also the world leader in *in vitro* diagnostics and tissue-based cancer diagnostics, and a frontrunner in diabetes management. Roche’s personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. In 2012 Roche had over 82,000 employees worldwide and invested over 8 billion Swiss francs in R&D. The Group posted sales of 45.5 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, in the United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche is the majority shareholder in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information, please visit [www.roche.com](http://www.roche.com).

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