

## 40.000 HISTORIC FORMULATIONS AS STARTING POINT FOR NEW DRUGS

### RESEARCH PROJECT EPICLEAP RECEIVES PARTIAL FUNDING FROM THE GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Munich and Berlin/ Germany – March, 12 2014 – BICOLL Group, Munich/ Germany and Shanghai/ PR China and the Horst-Görtz-Endowment Institute for the Theory, History and Ethics of Chinese Life Sciences, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, have announced today to receive a partial funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for their scientific joint project EPICLEAP (Anti-Epileptic Compounds Leveraging Ancient Prescriptions).



Contributing to the development of novel human therapeutics, the project will scientifically evaluate more than 40.000 hand-written, pharmaceutical recipes from China, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The texts are currently stored in libraries in Berlin/ Germany.

In a big data approach, the project partners will analyze this substantial data pool with a focus on quantitative relations between historically conveyed substances and compound compositions from plants on the one hand and their correlation to modern, therapeutic indications on the other hand, e.g. for the treatment of epilepsy.

BICOLL's part will be the identification of active plant substances and their further delivery to screening systems.<sup>[1]</sup> In addition BICOLL will coordinate the prospective utilization of the database concerning a fast identification of leads for drug development in other indications.

The project is based on an assumption that recipes, which have produced a positive medical effect on patients, have gained a statistic advantage by recommendation and re-usage over time. The project intends to identify substances from these recipes that could be perfect starting points for the development of new drugs by the pharmaceutical industry. Hence, EPICLEAP is fully in line with Chinese initiatives to analyze traditional Chinese knowledge about diseases and their therapy through molecular biology, and to integrate the findings into modern medical science.<sup>[2]</sup> To further expand the results of this project to additional therapeutic indications BICOLL welcomes further partners.

The project has a volume of more than 1 million Euros, and is planned to last from the beginning of 2014 through 2016.

"With EPICLEAP we will contribute to strengthen research on Chinese life sciences in Germany. We are convinced that these centuries-long applied and transmitted recipes will not only offer starting points for new drugs in the therapeutic area of epilepsy. Nature and evolution are the most creative suppliers regarding new ideas in drug discovery. More than two thirds of the 200 top-selling drugs in modern medicine are derived from nature", explained Dr. Kai Lamottke, Managing Director of BICOLL, on the occasion of the project's start in Berlin.

**About BICOLL:**

BICOLL is a biopharmaceutical company, offering pre-clinical support in the area of Drug Discovery from Natural Products and Medicinal Chemistry. Dedicated to the discovery and optimization of the highest quality lead compounds, BICOLL provides an efficient, multi-disciplinary approach to drug discovery. With outstanding expertise in high tech natural product chemistry and validated experience in medicinal chemistry, BICOLL increases quality and quantity of the drug discovery pipeline of its partner's candidates portfolio.

The BICOLL Group provides its services to a number of international clients of various fields of interest, e.g. pharmaceutical and agrochemical industry. The BICOLL Group comprises two legal entities: BICOLL GmbH in Munich, Germany and BICOLL Biotechnology (Shanghai) Co. Ltd., P.R. China. Technology development, cooperation management and marketing are functions in Munich, while facilities for research and development are located in Shanghai. BICOLL currently employs 40 people at both locations.

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**About HORST-GÖRTZ-STIFTUNGSINSTITUT:**

The Horst-Görtz Endowment Institute, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, is the only research institute in Europe with a focus on a long-term and systematic exploration of the theory, history, and ethics of Chinese life sciences. Its academic activities include the analysis of current health care delivery policy in China as well as the analysis and philologically serious translation of ancient Chinese medical and pharmaceutical texts into European languages. Its services are consulted both by governments, industry, investors, and academic institutions.

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Further Publications:

<sup>[1]</sup> Hellebood, S.; Haug C.; Lamottke K.; Zhou Y.; Wei J.; Daix S.; Cambula L.; Rigou G.; Hum D.W.; Walczak, R. "The Identification of Naturally Occurring Neoruscogenin as a Bioavailable, Potent, and High-Affinity Agonist of the Nuclear Receptor ROR $\alpha$  (NR1F1)" *Journal of Biomolecular Screening*, **2014**, *19*, 399-406.

<sup>[2]</sup> Unschuld, Paul U. *Traditionelle Chinesische Medizin*. CH Beck, 2013.