



Xgene Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.  
RaQualia Pharma Inc.  
September 22, 2021

### **License Agreement for Novel TRPM8 Blocker**

September 22, 2021 - Xgene Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. (Head Office: Hong-Kong; CEO: Gene Hsu, Ph.D.; hereinafter “Xgene”) and RaQualia Pharma Inc. (Head Office: Nagoya, Aichi, Japan; President & CEO: Hirobumi Takeuchi; hereinafter “RaQualia Pharma”) have entered into a licensing agreement for a novel TRPM8 blocker discovered by RaQualia Pharma.

TRPM8 is a discovery-stage, temperature-sensitive ion channel expressed in sensory neurons, which is activated by cold stimuli below 28 degrees Celsius or by menthol (an ingredient of mint). There is a growing scientific evidence suggesting that TRPM8 channel plays a role in multiple physiological conditions, including pain. RQ-00434739, a TRPM8 channel blocker discovered by RaQualia Pharma, has demonstrated efficacy in validated animal models of pain supporting a novel mechanism of action that differs from those of currently utilized analgesics. RQ-00434739 has a potential to become first in its class to address an unmet need in treatment of chronic pain.

Under the terms of the agreement announced today, Xgene obtained exclusive global rights (excluding Japan) to develop, manufacture, and commercialize RQ-00434739. RaQualia Pharma will receive an upfront fee, success-based milestone payments, and sales-based royalties. Xgene is planning to promptly complete preclinical studies required by regulatory authorities and to advance the program into phase I trials.

“We are excited to add RQ-00434739 to Xgene’s portfolio. With its novel mechanism of action that has a potential to address a substantial unmet clinical need in treatment of pain, this asset is a great strategic fit to leverage our Company’s expertise in this therapeutic area.” said Xgene’s CEO Dr. Gene Hsu.

“We are very pleased to announce the license agreement for TRPM8 blocker.” said Mr. Hirobumi Takeuchi, President and CEO of RaQualia Pharma. “We hope that Xgene, with its strong focus and expertise in the development of pain therapeutics, will advance the development of RQ-00434739 to bring an innovative analgesic drug to patients in the world in the near future.”

Through the license agreement, Xgene and RaQualia Pharma will strive to further strengthen the pipeline of drugs for pain treatment, an area of focus for both companies, and contribute to improving the quality of life of patients by providing new treatment options.

#### About RaQualia Pharma

RaQualia Pharma Inc. has its research headquarters in Nagoya, Japan and is a research and development based pharmaceutical company whose aim is to create new pharmaceutical products with cutting-edge science and technology focusing on medical fields where patients have the greatest need. RaQualia create development compounds, the seeds for new drugs, via an open collaboration network which they have designed. RaQualia then deliver valuable new treatments to patients by licensing these compounds to partners who in turn bring that innovation to market.

For more information, please visit <https://www.raqualia.com/>.

About Xgene

Xgene Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. is a subsidiary of Xgene Pharmaceutical, Inc. (Head Office: Cayman Islands; CEO: Gene Hsu, Ph.D.). Established in 2015, Xgene Pharmaceutical, Inc. engineers high-impact medications for unmet underserved needs in neurological conditions. Xgene's proprietary linker technology generates novel dual-acting conjugates combining two well-characterized and efficacious therapeutic molecules to produce a targeted multimodal approach. The conjugated molecules exhibit improved absorption, pharmacokinetic, and metabolic characteristics as compared to either parent drug. Preclinical studies of these conjugates demonstrate that the Xgene's linker modification results in lower toxicity and superior efficacy in several conditions characterized by high unmet need. For more information, please visit <https://xgenepharm.com/>.

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