



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Bengt Ågerup becomes stockholder in pharmaceutical company Vivolux**

Q-Med founder and former major stockholder Bengt Ågerup has through a directed stock issue become a stockholder of Vivolux AB, a company specializing in the development of cancer drugs.

Vivolux has leading-edge, international expertise in the synthesis of organic compounds and preclinical methods developed in-house to identify, optimize and verify pharmaceutical candidates for the treatment of cancer. The platform optimizes the prerequisites for achieving success once the pharmaceutical candidates enter the clinical phase, i.e. testing on human beings.

Bengt Ågerup will be a member of the Company's Board of Directors together with the founder of the company, Hans Rosén, and representatives from a number of research groups linked to the company.

*Hans Rosén states: "We are very pleased that Bengt Ågerup recognizes the potential at Vivolux. The timing is excellent in the light of future publications and choice of strategy for the company's operations."*

*Bengt Ågerup states: "I'm impressed by the pioneering results that have been achieved by researchers at Vivolux. The preclinical models developed in-house provide us with the very best prerequisites now that we are proceeding towards the clinical phase. I can see a great deal of potential at Vivolux."*

*Professor Stig Linder states: "Bengt Ågerup possesses substantial experience in pharmaceutical development and his involvement in Vivolux is very positive for us."*

Vivolux AB was founded in 2006 as a result of collaboration between Gunnar Westman, an associate professor at Chalmers University of Technology, with his synthesis work on biologically active substances, and a research group in Uppsala that has developed an advanced system for preclinical analysis of cancer drugs based on tests using fresh human cancer cells. In 2009, collaboration was established with a research group at the Karolinska Institute. This collaboration has resulted in access to a further unique method for evaluating the effects of cancer drugs. As opposed to the standard method, which is used by leading pharmaceutical companies, three-dimensional aggregates of human cancer cells are used as models of solid tumors. This facilitates identification of drug candidates that can reach and kill all cells in the tumor tissue

With the aid of these unique methods, several pharmaceutical candidates have been identified. These indicate very good growth-inhibiting effects on cancer cells although at the same time they are not aggressive towards normal cells. Several of the substances work in such a way that tumor cells are deprived of intra-cellular iron. The researchers have been able to demonstrate that this leads to effects which no present-day cancer drug can produce. Animal studies have confirmed the beneficial effects indicated in the preclinical systems. Patent applications have been filed for all substances and data has been submitted for publication.

The present owners of Vivolux possess significant expertise within pharmaceutical development, pharmacy, clinical pharmacology, experimental and clinical oncology, official requirements and business expertise. Bengt Ågerup's decision to invest in and become a member of the board of Vivolux means that the company will acquire further business expertise and excellent opportunities to complete the preclinical documentation for the substances and move on to clinical testing. Vivolux is planning to conduct future development work from Uppsala and will therefore move from its present domicile in Gothenburg.

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