

China to develop Next-Gen COVID-19 oral antiviral treatments

23 November 2021 | News

Simcere and Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica enter a collaboration



Simcere Pharmaceutical Group has reached collaboration agreement with the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica (SIMM), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), to develop novel antiviral drugs for COVID-19.

During preclinical studies, the compound candidates for these drugs have been shown to have strong inhibitory effects on a variety of SARS-CoV-2 strains, including the Delta variant, indicating their potential of becoming a new generation of oral drugs to treat the disease.

Under the arrangement, Simcere will obtain the exclusive right to develop, manufacture and commercialize the novel antiviral drug SIM0417 globally. Mutually striving to further contribute to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, both parties committed to working together to promote the clinical research and marketing process of the candidate drugs.

SIM0417 is a small-molecule antiviral agent that targets the 3C-like protease, a key enzyme in the replication and life cycle of coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2.

Preclinical animal models have demonstrated good antiviral activity and the safety of SIM0417. Due to the 3CL protease's highly conserved nature, SIM0417 has a strong inhibitory effect on a variety of SARS-CoV-2 variants including the highly infectious Delta variant.