

Merck inks \$2 B agreement with Hengrui Pharma for cardiovascular drug

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For an investigational oral lipoprotein(a) inhibitor for cardiovascular disease



Merck, known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, and Jiangsu Hengrui Pharmaceuticals Co., a global pharmaceutical company focused on scientific and technological innovation, have entered into an exclusive license agreement for HRS-5346, an investigational oral small molecule Lipoprotein(a), or Lp(a), inhibitor currently being evaluated in a Phase 2 clinical trial in China.

“Elevated blood concentrations of Lp(a) provides a well-documented risk factor for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, affecting as many as 1 in 5 adults globally,” said Dr Dean Y. Li, president, Merck Research Laboratories. “HRS-5346, an investigational oral small molecule inhibitor of Lp(a) formation, is an important addition that expands and complements our cardio-metabolic pipeline.”

Under the agreement, Hengrui Pharma has granted Merck exclusive rights to develop, manufacture and commercialise HRS-5346 worldwide, excluding Greater China region. Hengrui Pharma will receive an upfront payment of \$200 million and is eligible to receive milestone payments associated with certain development, regulatory and commercial milestones up to \$1.77 billion, as well as royalties on net sales of HRS-5346, if approved.

“We are pleased to partner with Merck, a global leader in cardiovascular care. We believe Merck’s clinical expertise and global scale will help accelerate the development of HRS-5346 and potentially provide more patients with an additional option to reduce their risk of atherosclerosis,” said Dr Frank Jiang, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer of Hengrui Pharma.