BioSpectrum the business of Bio & Health Sciences ASIA EDITION

First fibrotic disease drug of Singapore advances into Phase II clinical evaluation

21 January 2026 | News

To impact a devastating disease with limited treatment options

Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore has noted the announcement by Boehringer Ingelheim of a Phase IIa clinical study evaluating BI 765423, a first-in-class IL-11 inhibitor for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). The programme is among prominent few preclinical discoveries from Singapore to progress into Phase II clinical evaluation, marking a significant translational milestone with the potential to impact a devastating disease with limited treatment options.

The programme emerged from a deep academic medicine collaboration between Duke-NUS and SingHealth, including the National Heart Centre Singapore (NHCS). The work was led by Duke-NUS scientists, including Professor Stuart A Cook and Dr Sebastian Schäfer, whose research underpinned the formation of Enleofen Bio, a SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre spin-off company established to advance IL-11-targeted antibody therapeutics, before the asset was acquired for further global development by Boehringer Ingelheim.

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis remains a progressive and life-limiting disease with limited treatment options. Advances in understanding fibrotic mechanisms, including the role of IL-11, have opened new avenues for therapeutic development across fibrotic conditions.