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ASIA EDITION

Boehringer Ingelheim, Simcere Pharma collaborate on €1,058 M IBD antibody deal

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Novel TL1A/IL23p19 bispecific antibody targets drivers of disease pathogenesis to overcome the efficacy ceiling in inflammatory bowel disease

China-based Simcere Pharmaceutical Group and Germany-headquartered Boehringer Ingelheim have announced a license and collaboration agreement to develop SIM0709, a pre-clinical TL1A/IL23p19 bispecific antibody from Simcere, for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Globally, it is estimated that more than three million people are affected by IBD, a lifelong, progressive condition leading to frequent hospitalisation and surgeries, significantly impacting patients' quality of life. Current medical options cannot fully prevent or reverse these complications, leaving a clear unmet need. Through this partnership, Boehringer and Simcere aim to advance an innovative approach to potentially redefine treatment possibilities and improve outcomes for patients worldwide.

SIM0709 is a long-acting humanised bispecific antibody developed by Simcere using its proprietary multi-specific antibody platform. It simultaneously targets tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 15 (TL1A) and interleukin-23 (IL-23), thereby blocking two core pathways that drive the onset and progression of IBD. Both in vitro primary cell studies and in vivo animal studies, SIM0709 demonstrated superior synergistic efficacy, even outperforming the combination of the two corresponding monotherapies.

Under the terms of the agreement Boehringer receives global rights to the asset, excluding greater China. Simcere is eligible to receive an upfront payment as well as success-based development, regulatory and sales milestones up to EUR 1,058 million, as well as royalties on net sales outside of the Greater China territory.

This marks Simcere's second out- licensing transaction in the autoimmune field. As of January 2026, Simcere has completed a total of 5 out-licensing deals for its self-developed novel drug technologies, with a total potential transaction value of approximately $4.6 billion.