

## Baxter expands oncology pipeline through acquisition

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**Singapore:** Baxter has acquired Oncaspar (pegaspargase) product portfolio, a first-line biologic used as part of a multi-agent chemotherapy regimen to treat acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), from Sigma-Tau Finanziaria to tap the growing oncology markets for rare and orphan diseases.

By mid-year, Baxter expects to establish the bioscience business as a separate, publicly traded, innovation-oriented biopharmaceutical company, Baxalta Incorporated.

Oncaspar is currently marketed in the United States, Germany, Poland and certain other countries and has approximately \$100 million in annual sales. ALL is a rapidly progressing cancer of the white blood cells responsible for more than 80 percent of childhood leukemia cases.

"The Baxter BioScience legacy of delivering solutions for orphan diseases and small patient populations and our global presence positions us well to accelerate the growth of the Oncaspar portfolio globally," said Dr Ludwig Hantson, president, Baxter BioScience. "With Oncaspar, Baxalta will bring an established standard of care therapy to more patients worldwide through the pursuit of additional indications and regulatory approvals across the globe."

"Oncaspar is a strong strategic fit for our rapidly expanding oncology business, as it complements our R&D programs in hematologic cancers," added Mr David Meek, head of oncology, Baxter BioScience. "The acquisition provides an immediate commercial footprint in the United States and Europe with a heritage of expertise in treating this challenging disease."

As part of the acquisition, Baxter BioScience is also acquiring a related new chemical entity calaspargase pegol, a biologic in development for the treatment of ALL with an increased shelf life that is expected to reduce dosing frequency. Further, the company plans to investigate Oncaspar for potential new indications, including in additional ALL patient populations with

significant unmet needs, as well as for acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

"We are confident that this transaction provides benefits for patients, our business and our employees. The Oncaspar team will gain beneficial resources by joining forces with Baxter BioScience to bring this valuable treatment to more patients around the world," said Mr Andrea Montevercchi, CEO, Sigma Tau Finanziaria SpA.

The acquisition is expected to accelerate the company's efforts to capitalize on the rapidly growing oncology market, with an estimated \$10 billion total market potential across current oncology indications for Baxter's pipeline assets. It also complements recent momentum on several partnerships within the oncology pipeline, including positive Phase III results for the investigational treatment pacritinib for myelofibrosis as well as the recent regulatory filings of MM-398 for metastatic pancreatic cancer.