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Patent approval for treating common skin disorders

Arexis AB has received approval for a breakthrough patent application in Europe, covering a new method for treating the most common skin disorders. The patent was previously granted in North America and Australia. The treatment is based on a skin-specific enzyme, SCCE (Stratum Corneum Chymotryptic Enzyme), which affects, among others, the skin barrier function. Based on the granted patent, Arexis has started developing therapeutics for treating psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, and skin-care products aimed at individuals with dry and sensitive skin.

Association between an enzyme and eczema

“Our research has shown that SCCE is produced at greater levels in common skin diseases such as psoriasis and atopic dermatitis,” says Dr. Björn Löwenadler, Chief Scientific Officer at Arexis. “Genetic studies further indicate a link between SCCE activity and the development of atopic dermatitis. We have also discovered that the enzyme causes itching,” he states.

Therapeutic possibilities

“Skin disorders constitute a large, underestimated, health problem, and treatment methods have remained virtually unchanged over the last decades. This new, patented method opens up completely new therapeutic opportunities, and creates hope of a better quality of life for patients around the world,” concludes Dr. Löwenadler.

Industrial development plans

Arexis has already started developing both pharmaceuticals as well as skin-care products with leading industrial partners.

Arexis AB is a drug discovery and development company, pioneering the use of genetics in highly selected disease models to pinpoint specific genes involved in multifactorial metabolic and inflammatory diseases. Founded in 1999, Arexis is dedicated to addressing unmet medical needs and delivering improved therapies based on effective and selective new drugs. The head office is in Gothenburg.

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