

Nerviano Medical Sciences (NMS) to Reacquire World-Wide Rights of NMS-293, a Potent, Highly Selective, Non-Trapping, Brain-Penetrant PARP1 Inhibitor with Promising Clinical Results

- **Agreement reached with Merck KGaA to gain back the full rights of NMS-293**
- **Available clinical data support NMS-293 as an ideal partner for combination with DNA-damaging agents like chemotherapies or ADC payloads: NMS will expand clinical development of NMS-293 beyond the ongoing Phase 2 study in combination with temozolomide in patients with relapsed glioblastoma.**

NERVIANO, Italy, November 25 2024 – Nerviano Medical Sciences S.r.l. (NMS), a clinical stage company discovering and developing innovative therapies for the treatment of cancer, today announced that it has successfully negotiated with Merck KGaA the buy back of the full world-wide rights of NMS-293 (also known as NMS-03305293).

NMS-293 is a potent, highly selective PARP1 inhibitor designed to avoid trapping, a known cause of toxicity in healthy cells, making it ideal for combination with DNA-damaging agents like chemotherapies, or ADC payloads, including in homologous recombination repair proficient tumors. In this respect, initial safety data across the program have shown high bone marrow tolerability¹, supporting future promising clinical combinations in solid tumors.

Hugues Dolgos, Pharm.D., Chief Executive Officer, NMS commented: “The agreement that we announce today allows Nerviano Medical Sciences to re-gain full control of NMS-293, an innovative potential treatment for cancer patients, which we believe offers opportunity beyond the ongoing phase 2 study in patients with relapsed glioblastoma. We thank our partner Merck KGaA for the excellent collaboration. Our team is actively preparing two phase 1/2 trials to explore solid tumors, which will be subject to a further communication”.

1. Guerts et al. AACR-NCI-EORTC 2023. Initial results from 2 Phase 1 studies of NMS-03305293, a selective PARP1 inhibitor.

About NMS-293

NMS-293 is a potent, highly selective PARP1 inhibitor designed to avoid trapping, a known cause of toxicity in healthy cells, making it ideal for combination with DNA-damaging agents like chemotherapies or ADC payloads. Combination dosing is the key for the PARP field to move beyond BRCA mutations.

NMS-293 is currently in a Phase 2 study of patients with relapsed glioblastoma, IDH wild type, in combination with temozolomide. Initial safety data across the program showed high bone marrow tolerability (Guerts et al, AACR-NCI-EORTC 2023), paving the way for future combinations in other tumors.

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About Nerviano Medical Sciences

[Nerviano Medical Sciences](#) S.r.l. (NMS Srl) is focused on discovering and clinically developing small molecule New Chemical Entities (NCEs) for oncology, aiming to deliver first- and best-in-class personalized cancer treatments through innovative mechanisms and novel drug targets. Our pipeline, built from our validated kinase platform, includes projects from early preclinical to clinical stages, advanced both internally and in partnership.

NMS Srl combines biotech agility with big pharma quality, guided by an experienced management team and a skilled staff with global expertise in research, drug discovery, and clinical development. Our capabilities are extended by NMS Group affiliates Accelera (AdMet) and NerPharMa (manufacturing), covering the entire drug development process.

A core strength lies in our renowned kinase inhibitor platform, featuring an extensive chemical library and IP coverage, which has led to successful out-licensing deals, including with encorafenib and entrectinib. Additionally, we are advancing a PARP-family-focused platform to discover NCEs targeting NAD-binding pockets, with potential expansion to other NAD-dependent enzymes. Our growing payload-linker platform further enhances our pipeline by enabling next-generation ADC production.

Collaborating globally with academic, clinical, and industry partners, we seek further strategic alliances to develop, commercialize, and expand our product portfolio while exploring in-licensing opportunities for promising clinical assets.

About NMS Group

[NMS Group](#), Italy's largest oncology-focused R&D company, employs over 400 individuals, with more than half in advanced research and manufacturing roles. Its kinase inhibitor and antibody-conjugate platforms drive innovation, establishing NMS as a global leader in personalized therapies. Notably, NMS discovered entrectinib, a targeted kinase inhibitor for NTRK1/2/3 and ROS1-dependent tumors, now commercialized globally through Roche.

The Group includes three subsidiaries: NMS S.r.l., focused on FIC/BIC cancer drug development with a dozen active projects; Accelera, a preclinical CRO; and NerPharMa, which manufactures APIs and drug products for clinical and commercial use.

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