

Press release

## **MARIAN POPINIGIS INVESTS IN A NEW COMPANY—BIORESEARCH PHARMA (BRP)**

### **BRP IS DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE DRUGS FOR ALOPECIA AND PSORIASIS**

25 March 2024

**Marian Popinigis—entrepreneur, business angel, and previously cofounder and CEO of the biotech firm BLIRT S.A., which was sold in 2022 to the global player Qiagen for EUR 60 million—has invested in BioResearch Pharma S.A. (BRP). The company develops dermatology therapies, focusing on repurposing of drugs, i.e. using known, tested medicinal substances for new therapeutic indications. BRP is developing drugs with an innovative mechanism of action for use in treating androgenetic alopecia (project BRP-011) and psoriasis (project BRP-007).**

BRP is headed by CEO Łukasz Zybaczyński, a manager with many years of experience in some of the biggest global pharmaceutical companies, including Eli Lilly, known for drugs such as Humalog and Trulicity; Merck & Co., creator of the essential oncological drug Keytruda and the anti-hair-loss drug Propecia; and the German company Merck KGaA, known for Vigantoletten and Femibion for pre-natal care.

The cofounder of the company is Katarzyna Koziak, a professor at the Medical University of Warsaw behind the scientific discoveries being developed by BRP. In the company, she is the Chief Scientific Officer, responsible for research and development. Prof. Koziak's career has included research positions at Inserm in France and at one of the world's most prestigious medical institutions, Harvard Medical School in Boston.

#### **Repurposing — 3 x less cost, 3x less risk, and 3 x less time for developing new drugs**

The strategy of repurposing dermatological drugs adopted by BioResearch Pharma opens up the opportunity to expedite the development of these treatments, dividing the duration of this process by three (from 12–17 years to about 3–5 years),\* at less risk and cost than the traditional process of developing new drugs.

Using substances with a proven safety and efficacy profile, the company is developing new drugs with a novel mechanism of action, addressing unmet medical needs. At the same time, BRP's innovations have the potential to improve the quality of life of millions of people struggling with alopecia and psoriasis. The repurposing of new medicines may obviate the need to conduct toxicological and preclinical studies, as existing clinical and safety data from previous studies can be used in the regulatory development and certification process. The

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\* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9292808/>

innovations developed by BRP are dermatological therapies administered topically, which further increases the probability of commercial success and minimizes research risks.

“The founders of BioResearch Pharma convinced me first and foremost by all of the solid results of their research to date on substances already known on the market, but with an innovative mechanism of action, and with their impressive experience developing new drugs,” said **Marian Popinigis, BRP S.A. shareholder and co-founder and co-author of the success of companies like BLIRT S.A. and Mercor S.A.** “In addition, BRP’s business model based on dermatology and drug repurposing has significantly greater probability of technological and regulatory success, according to independent market analyses. The results obtained by Prof. Katarzyna Koziak in her research were world-class discoveries and allowed her to obtain patent protection. Analyses by CRO IQVIA, the largest global company monitoring the pharmaceutical market, further confirm the potential of BRP’s innovation. The company is developing therapies that may become the new standard in the treatment of alopecia and psoriasis, and improve the quality of life of patients, which also meets the demands of the booming field of aesthetic medicine. An inspiring example of a similar strategy was Allergan, an aesthetic medicine drug developed by Botox that was also a huge market success before being acquired by Abbvie.”

**Łukasz Zybaczyński, CEO and co-founder of BRP,** commented: “Marian Popinigis brings to our team not only capital, but also vast experience in creating company value and commercialization. His business knowledge and successes, including the sale of biotech company BLIRT to the global Qiagen group, will be very helpful in achieving our own goals. The operating model we have adopted, based on the repurposing of dermatological drugs, is even three times more likely to succeed, with lower costs and easier registration than typical innovative drugs. Prof. Katarzyna Koziak’s discoveries have a chance to become new therapies in the treatment of alopecia and psoriasis. In this way, we want to improve the quality of life and comfort of millions of patients around the world.”

### **BRP’s innovative dermatological therapies**

The company is developing two key products, BRP-011 and BRP-007, based on tested substances that have already demonstrated safety in humans. BRP-011 has the potential to become the first-in-class therapy for androgenetic alopecia. And BRP-007, with its unique mechanism of action may become an essential drug for topical application in psoriasis. Both BRP-011 and BRP-007 have been granted patents. The patent protection of BRP-011 covers the EU and the UK, while the BRP-007 patent covers the EU, the US and Australia.

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**About BRP:**

*BioResearch Pharma is a pharmaceutical company specializing in novel topical dermatological therapies. Repurposing of known, clinically tested medicinal substances is the foundation of BRP's business model, which is to enable faster commercialization—bringing effective and safe therapies to the market. The company is currently conducting projects to develop innovative drugs for topical treatment of androgenetic alopecia (BRP-011) and psoriasis (BRP-007).*

*The company was founded in 2021 by Łukasz Zybaczyński, a manager and physician with many years of experience in global pharmaceutical companies such as Eli Lilly, Merck & Co., and Merck KGaA; and Prof. Katarzyna Koziak from the Medical University of Warsaw, a biologist and the inventor of innovations being developed by BRP. The company's largest shareholder is Marian Popinigis, co-founder and former CEO of the biotech company BLIRT S.A. (sold in 2022 to life sciences group Qiagen). Popinigis is also a co-founder of the exchange-listed Mercor S.A., and Ambient System sp. z o.o.*

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