New data reinforces strength of once-daily COPD portfolio in improving lung function, shortness of breath and reducing rate of exacerbations

- BLAZE study showed once-daily QVA149 significantly improved patient self-reported shortness of breath and lung function compared to placebo and tiotropium 18 mcg

- SPARK results showed that QVA149 significantly reduced rate of all exacerbations compared to glycopyrronium 50 mcg and open-label tiotropium 18 mcg

- Pooled GLOW 1 and 2 data showed once-daily Seebri® Breezhaler® (glycopyrronium) significantly improved lung function in the first 4 hours following morning administration compared to open-label tiotropium

Tokyo, Japan – 22 May 2013: Sosei Group Corporation ("Sosei"; TSE Mothers Index; 4565) highlights that further data from the once-daily chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) clinical trial programs were presented today by Novartis at the American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference (Philadelphia, USA). In total, Novartis presented 27 abstracts, featuring latest findings from the IGNITE clinical trial program including BLAZE1 and SPARK2,3,6,7 studies, plus data from pooled GLOW1 and 2 studies4,8,9,10.

The BLAZE study showed that after six weeks of treatment, QVA149 significantly improved patient self-reported shortness of breath during daily activities versus both placebo (p<0.001) and tiotropium 18 mcg (p=0.021)\(^1\). BLAZE was the first study to evaluate direct electronic patient self-reported shortness of breath and showed that QVA149 significantly improved lung function versus placebo and tiotropium 18 mcg (as demonstrated by mean FEV\(_1\)) at all time points (45 minutes pre-dose to four hours post-dose) after six weeks of treatment (p<0.001)\(^1\).

The SPARK study, recently published in Lancet Respiratory Medicine\(^14\), demonstrated that QVA149 significantly reduced the rate of all COPD exacerbations (mild, moderate and severe) by 15% versus glycopyrronium 50 mcg (p=0.0012) and 14% versus OL tiotropium 18 mcg (p=0.0017)\(^2,3\). The primary endpoint of the study was also met since QVA149 demonstrated a significantly reduced rate of moderate or severe COPD exacerbations by 12% versus glycopyrronium (p=0.038)\(^2,3\). The rate of moderate or severe exacerbations was numerically lower (p=0.096) in patients on QVA149 compared to OL tiotropium 18 mcg\(^2,3\). SPARK also showed that patients receiving QVA149 had substantially improved lung function (measured by trough FEV\(_1\)) compared to glycopyrronium 50 mcg and OL tiotropium 18 mcg (both p<0.0001)\(^2,6\). In addition, QVA149 showed significant differences in health-related quality of life as demonstrated by St George’s Respiratory Questionnaire (SGRQ) total scores of QVA149 versus glycopyrronium 50 mcg (p<0.01) and OL tiotropium 18 mcg (p<0.05)\(^2,6\).

All treatments in the BLAZE and SPARK studies had an acceptable safety profile with no meaningful differences between the treatment groups in the incidence of adverse or serious adverse events\(^1,2,7\).
In a pooled analysis of GLOW1 and GLOW2 data, once-daily glycopyrronium 50 mcg (Seebri® Breezhaler®) demonstrated significant improvements in lung function during first 4 hours following morning administration (measured by FEV₁ AUC₀⁻₄h) versus placebo and OL tiotropium 18 mcg, at Day 1, 12 weeks and 26 weeks⁴. Once-daily glycopyrronium 50 mcg also demonstrated sustained improvements in lung function (measured by trough FEV₁) versus placebo over the long term⁴. Glycopyrronium 50 mcg was well-tolerated with a similar incidence of adverse events to placebo and OL tiotropium 18 mcg⁹.

About the study designs
BLAZE was a 6-week, multicenter, blinded, double-dummy, placebo-controlled, 3-period crossover study¹. Patients with moderate to severe COPD (N=247) were randomized to once-daily QVA149 (indacaterol maleate 110 mcg / glycopyrronium 50 mcg), tiotropium 18 mcg or placebo to assess the effect of QVA149 on patient self-reported shortness of breath¹.

SPARK was a 64-week, multicenter, double-blind, parallel-group, active controlled study assessing QVA149 (indacaterol maleate 110 mcg / glycopyrronium 50 mcg) versus glycopyrronium 50 mcg and OL tiotropium 18 mcg on the rate of moderate to severe COPD exacerbations in 2,224 patients with severe to very severe COPD¹⁴.

GLOW1 and GLOW2 were multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group studies in patients with moderate to severe COPD¹⁵,¹⁶. GLOW1 was a 26 week study with 822 patients randomized to receive once-daily glycopyrronium 50 mcg (Seebri® Breezhaler®) or placebo¹⁵. GLOW2 was a 52 week study with 1,066 patients randomized to receive once-daily glycopyrronium 50 mcg or placebo, and included an exploratory arm to compare the effects of once-daily OL tiotropium 18 mcg versus placebo and glycopyrronium 50 mcg¹⁶.

Notes for editors
About Seebri® Breezhaler®:
Seebri® Breezhaler® (glycopyrronium bromide) is an effective and generally well-tolerated once-daily long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA) indicated as maintenance therapy for the treatment of the symptoms of adult patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)¹⁸. Glycopyrronium bromide was licensed to Novartis in April 2005 by Sosei and its co-development partner Vectura.

Phase III data from the GLOW 1, 2 and 3 studies demonstrated that glycopyrronium 50 mcg delivered rapid and significant sustained improvements in lung function (measured by mean FEV₁) post-morning dose on Day 1 compared with placebo and sustained this for 24 hours over 52 weeks, and significantly improved shortness of breath, health related quality of life, exacerbations and exercise endurance versus placebo¹⁵,¹⁶,¹⁹ and was generally safe and well tolerated.
About QVA149:
QVA149 is an investigational inhaled, once-daily, fixed-dose combination of indacaterol maleate and glycopyrronium bromide. QVA149 is being investigated for the maintenance treatment of COPD in the Phase III IGNITE clinical trial program. IGNITE is one of the largest international clinical trial programs in COPD comprising 10 studies in total (ILLUMINATE, SHINE, BRIGHT, ENLIGHTEN, SPARK, BLAZE, ARISE, BEACON, RADIATE, LANTERN) with more than 7,000 patients across 42 countries. The first eight studies have already completed in 2012. The studies are designed to investigate efficacy, safety and tolerability, lung function, exercise endurance, exacerbations, shortness of breath and quality of life.

All Novartis inhaled COPD portfolio products are being developed for delivery via the Breezhaler® device, a single-dose dry powder inhaler (SDDPI), which has low air flow resistance, making it suitable for patients with airflow limitation. The Breezhaler® device allows patients to hear, feel and see that they have taken the drug correctly.

About COPD
COPD is a progressive disease associated mainly with tobacco smoking, air pollution or occupational exposure, which can cause obstruction of airflow in the lungs resulting in debilitating bouts of breathlessness. It affects an estimated 210 million people worldwide and is predicted to be the third leading cause of death by 2020. Although COPD is often thought of as a disease of the elderly, 50% of patients are estimated to be within the ages of 50 and 65, which means that half of the COPD population are likely to be impacted at the peak of their earning power and family responsibilities.

About Sosei
Sosei is an international biopharmaceutical company anchored in Japan with a global reach. It practises a reduced risk business model by acquiring compounds from, and bringing compounds into, Japan through exploitation of its unique position within global markets.

For further information about Sosei, please visit www.sosei.com.

Forward-looking statements
This press release contains forward-looking statements, including statements about the discovery, development and commercialisation of products. Various risks may cause Sosei’s actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including: adverse results in clinical development programmes; failure to obtain patent protection for inventions; commercial limitations imposed by patents owned or controlled by third parties; dependence upon strategic alliance partners to develop and commercialise products and services; difficulties or delays in obtaining regulatory approvals to market products and services resulting from development efforts; the requirement for substantial funding to conduct research and development and to expand commercialisation activities; and product initiatives by competitors. As a result of these factors, prospective investors are cautioned not to rely on any forward-looking statements. We disclaim any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

References
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20. Beeh et al. QVA149 once daily improves exercise tolerance and lung function in patients with COPD: the BRIGHT study. [BTS Winter Meeting 2012. Poster presentation P191; Date: 6 December; Time: 16:00-17:30].


27. Novartis Pharma AG, data on file. QVA149 A2339 (RADIATE).


