# The Berke Report

## Collaborations and Licensing Updates for the First Week of April 2023

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- 04.07.23 - Proxygen Nets Deal Worth Up to $2.55B with Merck around Glue Degraders (insideprecisionmedicine)
  - With the goal of "drugging the undruggable," developer of molecular glue degraders Proxygen has announced a multi-year research collaboration and license agreement with Merck & Co (known as MSD outside North America). In a deal potentially worth up to $2.55 billion. The companies will identify and develop drugs against multiple undisclosed therapeutic targets. Glue degrader companies are making plenty of deals and netting financing. Last year, for example, BMS made a deal worth $550M with SyntheX and extended its agreement with Evotec in this arena, which could be worth up to $5B. Proxygen already has partnerships with Merck KGaA and Boehringer Ingelheim. Under the terms of this agreement Merck (MSD), Proxygen will receive an undisclosed upfront payment and be eligible for future payments of up to $2.55 billion on the achievement of specified research, development, and commercial. Additionally, Proxygen is eligible to receive royalties on net sales of any such products. Proxygen is a spinout of the Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. It was founded in 2020 by Giulio Superti-Furga, who is now on the board; Matthias Brand, Chief Scientific Officer; and Stefan Kubice, special adviser. Proxygen is part of a ripe field that is trying to make new therapeutics that modulate protein classes previously untapped by drug developers.
- 04.05.23 - Nona Biosciences Enters into Collaboration Agreement with ExeVir Bio (PR)
  - Nona Biosciences, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HBM Holdings Limited, committed to cutting-edge technology innovation and provider of integrated solutions from "Idea to IND" (I to I™ ), announced today it has entered into a collaboration agreement with ExeVir Bio. The collaboration aims to accelerate the development of innovative therapeutics for unmet needs in infectious diseases, harnessing the combined expertise and resources of both companies.Harbour Mice® generates fully human monoclonal antibodies in classical two light and two heavy chain (H2L2) format, and heavy chain only (HCAb) formats. Integrating Harbour Mice® and a single B cell cloning platform, Nona Biosciences is focused on driving global inventions of transformative next-generation drugs. For more information, please visit: www.nonabio.com
- 04.05.23 - Incyte taps Biotheryx for $360M in 2nd molecular glue degrader deal of the day (fiercebiotech)
  - Incyte has paid out $7 million upfront to BioTheryx, with potentially $6 million to follow in R&D funding and up to $347 million in milestone payments. In return, Incyte gets to use BioTheryx's PRODEGY platform to identify and initially develop molecular glue degraders for "multiple historically undruggable oncology targets," according to this morning's release. Incyte will be responsible for the further development and eventual commercialization of any degraders discovered via the platform. There is also the possibility that the collaboration can be expanded. Molecular glues are small molecules used to stabilize the interaction between two proteins that don't typically interact. Announcing today's deal, Incyte Chief Scientific Officer Dashyant Dhanak, Ph.D., described protein degradation as "one of the most promising modalities in oncology."
- 04.04.23 - Scorpion Therapeutics and Pierre Fabre Announce Collaboration and License Agreement to Co-Develop and Commercialize STX-721 and STX-241 for Patients with EGFR Mutant Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (PR)
  - Scorpion receives $65 million from an upfront payment and the achievement of near-term milestones and is eligible to receive up to $553 million in potential milestones, plus royalties on net product sales. Scorpion will retain rights to STX-721 and STX-241 in the United States, Canada and Japan; Pierre Fabre granted rights in all other global territories. Collaboration will accelerate development of STX-721 and STX-241 in key international markets and support Scorpion and Pierre Fabre's missions to bring transformational therapies to patients globally
- 04.03.23 - Histogen Announces Exclusive Intellectual Property License Agreement with Johns Hopkins University (PR)
  - Licensed Patents Expected to Provide Freedom to Operate and Exclusivity for Emricasan. Pipeline Focus on Pan-Caspase and Caspase Selective Inhibitors for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases. Histogen Inc. (HSTO), a clinical-stage therapeutics company focused on developing potential first-in-class clinical and preclinical small molecule pan-caspase and caspase selective inhibitors that protect the body's natural process to restore immune function, today announced that the company has signed an exclusive license agreement with Johns Hopkins University. The intellectual property associated with this license covers the use of emricasan for the treatment of disease in humans resulting from viral or bacterial infections (including, but not limited to, MRSA, VRSA, and SARS-CoV-2). The license agreement with Johns Hopkins is an instrumental addition to Histogen's intellectual property portfolio. Rights to these patent applications, together with recently issued internal patents, are expected to provide freedom to operate and exclusivity worldwide to the Histogen's entire caspase inhibitor portfolio.
- 04.03.23 - Innate Pharma Announces Exclusive License of Antibodies to Takeda for Celiac Disease Research Program (PR)
  - Takeda to obtain exclusive worldwide rights to develop, manufacture and commercialize Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADC) using a panel of selected antibodies developed by Innate. Under the terms of the license agreement, Innate will receive a $5m upfront payment and is eligible to receive up to $410m in future development, regulatory and commercial milestones if all milestones are achieved during the term of the agreement, plus royalties on potential net sales of any commercial product resulting from the license.

- 04.03.23 - BioNTech delves into ADCs with $170M upfront weeks after Pfizer lines up Seagen (endpts)
  - As its Covid vaccine partner Pfizer goes all in on the hot field of antibody-drug conjugates, BioNTech will enter the space as well in a $170 million upfront, $1.5 billion biobuck pact with a Shanghai biotech. The German biotech will pair up with Duality Biologics to make two ADCs globally, save for Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau. BioNTech, which has been lining up a series of deals to follow up on its breakout Covid vaccine with Pfizer, will use the deal to go after solid tumors. BioNTech nabs DualityBio's DB-1303, which targets HER2-expressing solid tumors. The topoisomerase-1 inhibitor-based ADC is already in a Phase II study in China, Australia and the US, where it has a fast track tag. The other ADC, yet to enter human studies, is dubbed DB-1311. On that one, DualityBio has the option to co-develop and co-promote the drug candidate in the US, as well as profit/loss sharing.