

Siegfried Success Story : BioCryst

Antivirals against influenza

BioCryst is a U.S.-based pharma company which has entered into a development and manufacturing partnership with Siegfried in 2007. In the same year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded BioCryst US\$ 103 mio for the advanced development of their influenza antiviral drug, peramivir. At the time of the announcement, HHS Secretary Mike Levitt stated that «antivirals are an important element of our pandemic influenza preparedness efforts. Our antiviral strategy includes not only stockpiling existing antiviral drugs but also seeking out new antiviral medications to further broaden our capabilities to treat and prevent all forms of influenza.»

The advanced development of peramivir by parenteral injection has been given «fast track» designation by the Food and Drug Administration, which will expedite the agency's review of BioCryst's application for approval. The drug application is expected to be filed with the FDA in 2010.