

## **CILcare and Knotus partner to accelerate the development of novel therapies to prevent and treat ear disorders in Korea and Asian market**

Montpellier & Seoul, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021: CILcare, the world's leading CRO dedicated to ear disorders, and Knotus, a leading Korean non-clinical CRO, announced today that they have entered into a strategic partnership that aims at accelerating the development of therapeutics to prevent and treat hearing disorders. CILcare and Knotus will be working together to propose to pharmaceutical, veterinary, nutraceutical and medical devices industries CILcare's cutting-edge R&D services to support safety and efficacy evidence of their products on auditory functions.

Hearing loss is a global unmet medical need that concerns 1.5 billion people worldwide, with a prevalence increasing dramatically stemming from aging population, noise exposure and auditory side-effects of multiple drugs. In 2050, 2.5 billion people will suffer from hearing loss according to the latest WHO forecasts, and the highest rise will be observed in Western Pacific Region.

As there are still no drugs on the market to treat tinnitus and hearing loss, there is an urgent need to find effective treatment for the sake of patients.

*“Knotus has an outstanding reputation in the life-science industry in Korea. It is for CILcare an ideal partner providing differentiated services based on veterinary expertise, experienced in various fields including ophthalmology, oncology, inflammation, and CNS”, says Wahid Awad, CILcare’s Chief business Officer. “Korea is a highly dynamic market for biopharmaceutical industry where companies invest a significant part of their budget in R&D to launch new drugs. We know it is also an innovative hub for regenerative medicines with abundant early adopters seeking advanced therapies.”*

*“We are excited to partner with CILcare. This partnership brings us a rare expertise in neurotology which will allow us to provide compelling auditory R&D services to our customers across South Korea, China, Japan and Australia to address a major public health concern”, comments JungRae Kim, Overseas Sales Director at Knotus. “Knotus will also benefit from CILcare’s network in animal health industry in Europe, thereby strengthening its leadership position in pet business and answering growing demand of veterinary medicines.”*

CILcare & Knotus partnership will be in the spotlight during BIO Korea 2021, an elite Korean convention sponsored by CILcare, that connects innovative actors from the bio industry. Bio Korea is taking place online and onsite from June 9<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup> 2021.

## About CILCARE

CILcare is the world-leading R&D services company specialized in hearing disorders. Based in Montpellier, Boston, Paris, and Copenhagen, CILcare has become the one-stop partner for pharmaceutical industries, biotechs, medtechs, veterinary & nutraceutical companies, developing novel therapies for people with ear disorders. CILcare designs and performs pharmacokinetics, efficacy, and GLP ototoxicity studies to assess drugs, medical devices, cell & gene therapies, health food ingredients, on hearing loss, tinnitus, ototoxicity, and otitis.

Learn more about CILcare's services: <https://www.cilcare.com/>

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## About KNOTUS

Knotus is a leading Korean non-clinical CRO providing domestic and overseas pharmaceuticals and bio ventures services necessary for development process of medicines and health functional foods. Knotus' mission is to contribute to the development of bio industry with limitless research and challenging spirit with the aim of helping humankind pursue happy life.

Learn more about Knotus' services: <http://www.knotus.co.kr/eng/Index>

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