



SELECTIVE ENDOCANNABINOID REUPTAKE INHIBITORS (SERIS) IN CNS DISORDERS

Problem – Challenge

SERIs are competitive and reversible first-in-class inhibitors that restore the normal functioning of the brain by increasing the levels of endogenous cannabinoids (endocannabinoids). They represent a new potential therapeutic approach for central nervous system (CNS) disorders, in particular anxiety, mood and stress-related conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This is an area of medicine that has been greatly underserved by new therapies over the past 25 years.

Solution

Prof. Jürg Gertsch and Dr. Andrea Chicca from the IBMM at the University of Bern have discovered this novel mode of action and identified this new class of SERIs. They co-founded Synendos Therapeutics AG, together with Dr. Simon Russell, an experienced biotech executive, as a biopharmaceutical company with the aim of bringing the SERIs into the clinic. The innovation that underpins Synendos has been recognised with around 4 Mio CHF in grant funding and a 24 Mio CHF Series A financing round in 2020/21.

Synendos has arisen from many years of solid basic research on endocannabinoid biology and pharmacology and a thorough medicinal chemistry programme that led to identification of the lead preclinical drug candidate SYT-510. Development work is accelerating and Synendos anticipates entering clinical development with SYT-510 in 2023.

Application area: Pharma

Partners: Synendos Therapeutics AG, Spin-off University of Bern

