

Serac Healthcare founded to develop a molecular imaging agent to help rheumatologists manage treatment decisions in their patients with rheumatoid arthritis

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Serac Life Sciences Limited (SLS) announces the formation of a new company, Serac Healthcare Limited (SHC), which will develop and commercialise a novel molecular imaging agent for the detection of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). SHC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SLS, has acquired the molecular imaging agent maraciclatiside from GE Healthcare. The goal of the company is to enable rheumatologists to “see disease activity” in the joints, informing clinicians and helping them deliver personalised care to their patients.

RA is an inflammatory joint disease affecting about 1% of the world population¹ which, if untreated, can result in progressive, irreversible joint damage and disability. Timely, aggressive therapy offers the best chance of achieving good long-term outcomes but it remains a challenge to identify the patients requiring such treatment. Conventional imaging techniques such as X-ray, MR and ultrasound have a number of limitations in the diagnosis and management of patients with RA.

Maraciclatiside is a molecular imaging agent which binds to a protein ($\alpha_v\beta_3$ integrin) found in abundance in joints affected by RA but which is largely absent in healthy joints. Preliminary clinical trial results are extremely encouraging and SHC plans to complete further studies in RA and other conditions in which $\alpha_v\beta_3$ integrin is over-expressed (e.g. Psoriatic Arthritis [PS], Enthesitis, Ankylosing Spondylitis [AS], tumours, inflammatory cardiovascular conditions and cardiac remodelling). The company intends to seek worldwide regulatory approvals for maraciclatiside.

David Hail, CEO of SLS said, “RA can be a devastating disease and we are excited that we have the opportunity to develop a novel technology which we believe has the potential to help physicians select the optimal treatment for each patient, leading to improved quality of life and better long-term outcomes.”

¹ Gibofsky A. Overview of epidemiology, pathophysiology, and diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. *Am J Manag Care*. 2012;18:S295-302.

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About Serac Life Sciences Limited

Serac Life Sciences (SLS) has been established with investment from Serac Limited (Serac) - a strategy, transformation and innovation consultancy with deep experience in the Life Sciences and Healthcare Industries. Serac was established in 1992 and has been helping businesses around the globe unlock their potential and value ever since. Serac's investment in and ongoing support of SLS brings together profound expertise in insight and people driven approaches to strategy and innovation, in combination with a leadership team with over 80 years' experience in the global development and successful commercialisation of molecular imaging technologies. The acquisition of maraciclatiside is the first step towards building a portfolio from hitherto dormant assets which we believe can create value by making a substantial difference to patients and healthcare systems around the world.

About molecular imaging

Molecular imaging is a type of medical imaging that provides unique insights into what is happening inside the body at the cellular and molecular level helping physicians to deliver "personalised medicine" – i.e. delivering the right treatment to the right patient at the right time. Unlike other medical imaging technologies such as x-rays, computed tomography (CT) and ultrasound (US) which provide structural images, molecular imaging allows physicians to see how cells, tissues and organs are functioning and to measure chemical and biological processes without having to resort to biopsy or surgery.