

## HRA Pharma Closes Investment in Embera NeuroTherapeutics to Advance Development of Novel Therapies for Addiction

**Paris, FRANCE, April 10, 2015** – HRA Pharma today announced that it has successfully closed an equity investment in Embera NeuroTherapeutics Inc. via HRA Insight, the company's initiative to fund and support innovative life sciences projects. Embera's lead product, EMB-001 is a novel combination of cortisol synthesis inhibitor metyrapone with the benzodiazepine oxazepam for the treatment of cocaine and nicotine addiction. HRA Pharma markets metyrapone (Metopirone®) globally for the diagnosis and management of patients with endogenous Cushing's syndrome.

Under the terms of the agreement, Embera will receive capital to advance EMB-001 through Phase 1 evaluating the safety and pharmacokinetics of combined single and multiple rising doses of the product candidate in cigarette smokers. Additionally, Erin Gainer, CEO of HRA Pharma will serve as a non-voting observer on Embera's Board of Directors. HRA's equity investment is part of a \$2 million round of financing in which historical investors, angel groups and private individuals also participated.

Erin Gainer, CEO of HRA Pharma said: "We acquired the global metyrapone business from Novartis in 2011 and have since devoted significant resources to reinvigorating this important cortisol synthesis inhibitor in our core field of endocrinology. Our investment in both capital and expertise will help Embera advance their lead program while providing us an equity stake along with insight into an interesting new field with significant unmet need and, potentially, a promising new indication for metyrapone."

It is part of HRA Pharma's core development strategy to establish alliances with innovative companies that broaden the scope of the company's pipeline and advance the development of promising technologies. Established in 2014, the HRA Insight initiative backs promising life sciences projects with capital plus in kind drug development expertise.

## **About HRA Pharma**

HRA Pharma is a privately-held European pharmaceutical company that designs products, devices and supporting services in niche areas of health and makes them available to doctors and patients worldwide. The company targets therapeutic gaps in the areas of reproductive health and endocrinology, and uses innovative marketing solutions and socially-conscious programs to promote healthy management of drugs and diseases. Headquartered in Paris, France and with subsidiaries across Western Europe, HRA Pharma has built a strong network of R&D, manufacturing, distribution and NGO partners which enables it to satisfy critical patient needs and improve patient health in over 80 countries across the globe. Visit www.hra-pharma.comfor more information.

## **About Embera NeuroTherapeutics**

Embera NeuroTherapeutics, Inc. is a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company focused on treating a broad range of addictions where the major clinical challenge is a limited range of effective therapies. Embera is developing a novel drug combination (EMB-001) targeting specific brain functions related to stress response that drive craving and relapse associated with these disorders. Embera is advancing EMB-001 development programs in smoking cessation and cocaine use disorder. www.emberaneuro.com.

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