

Mumbai, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA to conduct human Phase 1 trial of Wockhardt's novel once-a-day MDR Gram-negative antibiotic WCK 6777**

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), United States of America (USA) is supporting a Phase 1 clinical trial of Wockhardt's novel once-a-day, multidrug-resistant (MDR) Gram-negative targeted antibiotic WCK 6777. The trial will be conducted at NIAID's Phase I clinical trial units in the USA. NIAID will sponsor the investigational new drug (IND) application for the study. The Food and Drug Administration (USA) has granted a qualified infectious disease product (QIDP) designation to WCK 6777, which signifies its ability to meet unmet medical need and facilitates faster approval process.

"We are honored that, NIH, USA would support phase 1 clinical development of WCK 6777 which upon development is expected to offer a much needed outpatient-parenteral antimicrobial therapy for MDR infections in ambulatory settings" said Dr Habil Khorakiwala, Founder and Executive Chairman of Wockhardt group. Interestingly, WCK 6777 is a combination of zidebactam and ertapenem and, zidebactam has also been combined with cefepime, the combination designated as WCK 5222. Chief Scientific Officer, Dr Mahesh Patel elaborated that "WCK 6777 operates through a novel  $\beta$ -lactam enhancer action that enables it to overcome several clinically challenging resistance mechanisms in Gram-negative pathogens".

Once-a-day therapeutic profile of WCK 6777 is expected to cut hospital admissions, facilitate early patient discharge and thus introduce patient-centered care for MDR infections. Through independent preclinical studies, WCK 6777 is shown to be active against several carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative pathogens such as *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella*, which are often the cause of community as well as hospital infections such as urinary tract infections (UTIs). In USA, UTIs alone accounts for about three million annual hospitalizations and are linked to hospital care cost exceeding 2.8 billion USD<sup>1</sup>.

This trial is being funded in whole or in part under NAIID award number HHSN272201500005I.

### **About NIAID & NIH**

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation's medical research agency. NIAID conducts and supports research to study the causes of infectious and immune-mediated diseases, and to develop better means of preventing, diagnosing and treating these illnesses.

## About Wockhardt

Wockhardt is a research based global pharmaceutical and Biotech Company, headquartered in India. Wockhardt employs over 5,000 people and 27 nationalities with presence in USA, UK, Ireland, Switzerland, France, Mexico, Russia and many other countries. It has manufacturing and research facilities in India, USA & UK and a manufacturing facility in Ireland. Wockhardt has a significant presence in USA, Europe and India, with over 80% of its global revenues coming from international businesses. Wockhardt's new drug discovery program has focused on unmet need of anti-bacterial drugs that are effective against the menace of untreatable superbugs. The FDA (USA) has granted QIDP status for six antibiotics discovered at Wockhardt, three of them target Gram-negative pathogens and other three target Gram-positive multi-drug resistant pathogens.

1. Zilberberg MD, Nathanson BH, Sulham K, Shorr AF. Descriptive Epidemiology and Outcomes of Hospitalizations With Complicated Urinary Tract Infections in the United States, 2018. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2022 Jan 10;9(1):ofab591. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofab591.

## Disclaimer:

*Wockhardt Limited is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, a rights issue of its equity shares and has filed a Letter of Offer. The Letter of Offer is available on the website of SEBI at <https://www.sebi.gov.in>, the website of BSE at <https://www.bseindia.com>, the website of NSE at <https://www.nseindia.com>, the website of the Lead Manager at [www.ambit.co](http://www.ambit.co) and the website of the registrar to the Issue at [www.linkintime.co.in](http://www.linkintime.co.in).*

*Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk. For details, potential investors should refer to the Letter of Offer, including the section titled "Risk Factors".*

## For more information, please contact:

Mr. Debashis Dey

E-mail: [investorrelations@wockhardt.com](mailto:investorrelations@wockhardt.com)