

## Media Release

Zug, 23 November 2015

### **HBM Healthcare Investments participates in CHF 60 million financing of Swiss women's health company ObsEva**

ObsEva, a privately held biopharmaceutical company domiciled in Geneva, today announced the closing of a CHF 60 million financing round. HBM Healthcare Investments co-led the round and invested CHF 10 million as part of a strong syndicate of investors including New Enterprise Associates, OrbiMed, Rock Springs Capital, Sofinnova Partners, Sofinnova Ventures, Novo Ventures and Merck Serono Ventures.

ObsEva was founded in 2013 and is led by Dr Ernest Loumaye, the former CEO and co-founder of PregLem, which was acquired by Gedeon Richter in 2010. The company is advancing a robust pipeline of oral, late stage compounds to treat women's reproductive health conditions. Its lead product candidate OBE001, a novel oral oxytocin antagonist, is currently in Phase 2 testing for preterm labor and a separate Phase 2 study for assisted reproductive technology (ART). OBE002, a first-in-class, oral PGF2 $\alpha$  antagonist for preterm labor, will enter the clinic in 2016. Just prior to the financing, ObsEva announced the expansion of its pipeline through an exclusive license with Kissei Pharmaceutical for OBE2109, an oral gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) antagonist for endometriosis that recently completed Phase 2a studies in Japan.

*"The financing enables ObsEva to advance the development of its promising clinical candidates. With a clear focus on women's health, an experienced management team and an advanced pipeline of drug candidates addressing important medical needs, Swiss-based ObsEva is one of the few European biopharmaceutical companies attracting a strong transatlantic consortium of investors."* commented Dr Andreas Wicki, Chief Executive Officer of HBM Healthcare Investments.

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### About Preterm Labor / Preterm Birth

According to The Global Action Report on Preterm Birth “Born Too Soon” issued by the WHO in 2012, 15 million babies are born prematurely (i.e. before 37 weeks of gestation) every year. This represents more than 1 in 10 newborns. Over 1 million children die each year due to complications of preterm birth and survivors may face a lifetime of disability. The rates of preterm birth are rising in most countries.

In addition to the potentially severe consequences for the families involved, preterm birth is also associated with an important financial burden to society, with an annual cost of preterm births which was estimated in 2005 at around USD 27 billion in the USA.

### About Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)

Infertility affects about 10% of reproductive-aged couples, causing a significant psychological burden. Every year, worldwide, about 1.6 million ART/IVF treatments are performed of which 176'000 in the USA and 588'000 in Europe.

Success rates decrease with age, particularly after 35 years of age, resulting in an approximately 10-45% clinical pregnancy rate per treatment cycle. The cost of one ART/IVF cycle varies between USD 8'000-15'000 in the USA, EUR 2'000-10'000 in Europe and USD 2'000-6'000 in Japan.

### About Endometriosis

Endometriosis affects an estimated 1 in 10 women during their reproductive years, which is approximately 176 million women in the world. In this disease, tissue similar to the lining inside the uterus (called “the endometrium”) is found outside the uterus, where it induces a chronic inflammatory reaction. Endometriosis lesions are primarily found in the abdominal cavity, on the ovaries, the bladder, and bowel. The symptoms of endometriosis include painful periods, painful ovulation, pain during or after sexual intercourse, heavy bleeding, chronic pelvic pain, fatigue and infertility, and can impact on general physical, mental, and social well-being.

The World Endometriosis Research Foundation (WERF) EndoCost study, the first ever prospective study of the actual cost of endometriosis, estimated the annual cost of endometriosis at EUR 70.9 billion in the US and EUR 58.8 billion in Germany, UK, France and Italy.

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### About ObsEva

ObsEva is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company focusing on the development of a novel generation of drugs addressing serious women's health conditions. Their lead programs target the underserved problems of preterm labor, infertility and endometriosis affecting more and more women worldwide. The ObsEva team's unique development expertise is supported by top-tier investors in order to build a leading company in women's health. [www.ObsEva.com](http://www.ObsEva.com)

### Information on HBM Healthcare Investments Ltd

HBM Healthcare Investments invests in the healthcare sector. The Company holds and manages an international portfolio of some 25 promising companies in the human medicine, biotechnology, medical technology and diagnostics sectors and related areas. Many of these companies have their lead products already available on the market or at an advanced stage of development. The portfolio companies are closely tracked and actively guided in their strategic direction. This is what makes HBM Healthcare Investments an interesting alternative to investments in big pharma and biotechnology companies. HBM Healthcare Investments has an international shareholder base and is listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker: HBMN).

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