



**MERZ NORTH AMERICA SIGNS LICENSING  
AGREEMENT WITH BRICKELL BIOTECH FOR  
DEVELOPMENT OF A NOVEL RETINOID THERAPY**

***Merz North America announces additional investment  
in the future of its U.S. dermatology business.***

GREENSBORO, N.C. – JUNE 30, 2014 – Merz North America, Inc. today announced that it has signed an agreement with Brickell Biotech, Inc. granting Merz an exclusive North American license with certain additional international rights to develop and commercialize, a completely novel retinoid compound for the treatment of skin conditions known to be responsive to retinoid agents, such as acne and psoriasis. Under the terms of the agreement, Merz North America will assume the full cost and responsibility for future development and commercialization, initially for North America. The specific terms of the agreement, including upfront and milestone payments, remain confidential.

“As Merz North America continues to expand its presence in the U.S. medical dermatology space, we are excited to continue the clinical development of this new chemical entity (NCE) via our own in-house research and development expertise,” said Bill Humphries, president & CEO of Merz North America. “By pursuing a targeted, long-term growth strategy, we will continue to provide physicians and their patients with new treatment options that set the standard for quality and innovation in medical and aesthetic dermatology.”

In preclinical studies performed by Brickell, this novel, patent-protected retinoid therapy displayed activity which differentiated it from the leading topical retinoids currently available on the market. In medical dermatology, topical retinoids are typically indicated for treatment of acne and/or psoriasis and are available on the market as monotherapy or combination therapy.

“We are pleased to be strengthening Merz’s leadership in medical dermatology through targeted development projects such as this licensing agreement with Brickell,” said Greg Besase, Vice President and Head – US Dermatology for Merz North America. “Merz is proud to affirm its continued commitment to the dermatology space, and we look forward to providing physicians and their patients with a novel treatment option for skin conditions known to be responsive to retinoid therapy.”

Over the course of the past year, Merz North America has made significant investments in the future of its medical dermatology business. In addition to closing on a number of business development deals, (both announced and non-disclosed), Merz also expanded its dermatology product portfolio with the launch a Naftin<sup>®</sup> (naftifine HCl) Gel, 2% for the treatment of interdigital-type tinea pedis

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caused by the organisms *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, and *Epidermophyton floccosum* in patients 18 years of age and older.

#### **About Merz North America**

Merz North America is a specialty healthcare company that develops and commercializes innovative, high-quality treatment solutions in aesthetics, dermatology and neurosciences in the U.S. and Canada. Our ambition is to become the most admired, trusted and innovative aesthetics and neurotoxin company. By developing products that improve patients' health and help them to live better, feel better and look better, we will continue to make significant contributions to the well-being of individuals around the world. Founded in 1908, Merz Pharma Group is a privately-owned company headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany. For more information about Merz or the Company's products, please visit [www.merzusa.com](http://www.merzusa.com).

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#### **About Brickell Biotech**

Brickell Biotech, Inc. is a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of innovative drug therapies for the treatment of skin diseases. Founded by a team of experienced pharmaceutical executives, Brickell's development strategy includes rapidly and cost effectively developing product candidates; exploring strategic partnerships; maintaining a diversified product portfolio that addresses unmet medical needs; and leveraging professional relationships with thought leaders and contract research organizations in the pharmaceutical industry. For more information, please visit [www.brickellbio.com](http://www.brickellbio.com).