



PRESS RELEASE

Warsaw, 23th of March, 2020

The ŁUKASIEWICZ Research Network and Celon Pharma S.A. have started a joint research programme to work on:

- (1) determining the therapeutic potential of known drugs and active substances (and their combinations) to study their effect on SARS-CoV-2**
- (2) developing molecules specifically targeting the components of SARS-CoV-2, which in the longer term would make it possible to develop an innovative drug with a potential to treat viral diseases,**
- (3) carrying out preclinical and clinical studies on selected candidates to be used in treatment and securing their availability for the needs of patients in Poland.**

ŁUKASIEWICZ's contribution to the research programme will be its scientific potential and experience in genetic engineering, new gene expression systems, genome and monoclonal antibody diagnostics, and production of high-purity compounds that act biologically and have a protein structure, as well as in chemistry of compounds with a therapeutic effect. The work will also draw on the knowledge and experience in such fields as biotechnology, development and implementation of biologically active substance technologies, preclinical studies with toxicology, bioavailability and bioequivalence.

Celon Pharma S.A. will contribute its capabilities in manufacturing drugs, including antiviral ones, experience in creating and developing innovative drugs, as well as readiness to carry out *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests. It will also leverage its experience in preparing, organising and conducting clinical studies on innovative medicines, as well as in production and registration of medicines on domestic and foreign markets.

The ŁUKASIEWICZ Research Network is a unique in Poland and internationally recognised network of research institutes professionally and organisationally prepared to conduct research and implementation activities. ŁUKASIEWICZ's R&D work responds to social challenges in such areas as health, sustainable economy and energy, smart mobility, and digital transformation. The ŁUKASIEWICZ Research Network's special mission is to coordinate the efforts of creative people who are passionate about developing innovative solutions to spur Poland's economic growth.

Celon Pharma S.A. is an independent Polish pharmaceutical company specialising in the development, manufacture and sale of technologically advanced, modern medicinal products. In Poland the company stands out for its unique knowledge and experience in conducting research and development work on innovative drugs. It has extensive research and development facilities, including a complex of modern laboratories facilitating wide-ranging



development work on innovative drugs, in particular those intended to treat nervous and respiratory system diseases, inflammatory diseases, and cancer.