



# Elara Corporate Fact Sheet

## Introduction

Elara Pharmaceuticals is focusing on the development of novel treatments for malignant diseases through inhibition of the hypoxia signaling pathway. Its targeted drugs hold the promise of achieving better efficacy with improved tolerability.

The Company was founded in 2006 as a spin-out of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg. Its lead product – a small molecule targeting the hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) signaling pathway - has entered preclinical development in 2010. In animal models of cancer it demonstrates a good efficacy and favorable pharmacokinetic and tolerability profile. It has demonstrated broad activity against both solid and hematological malignancies and therefore has a broad indication range. Two novel series targeting the same pathway are in lead optimization.

## Proven expertise in cancer

Elara draws on its proven expertise in medicinal and computational chemistry complemented and enhanced by the skills and know-how of some of Europe's leading molecular biologists and the cutting-edge technology of EMBL's Chemical Biology Core Facility which was led by Joe Lewis, one of the co-founders of Elara.

By combining phenotype-driven drug discovery and expedited lead optimization processes, Elara has been able to advance the most promising lead candidate to formal preclinical development in less than three years after its inception. The Company aims to start clinical development by 2011.

## Technology and Products

Elara focuses on compounds targeting the hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) signal transduction pathway, a cellular signaling cascade activated once a cell becomes deprived of oxygen. Once on, HIF promotes production of transcription and growth factors that allow the cancer cells to survive under stress and lead to the formation of new blood vessels. Therefore, HIF is crucial for tumor survival and growth. Over-expression of HIF also correlates with poor clinical prognosis.

Elara has built a portfolio of compounds which prevent cells from adapting to hypoxia by potently inhibiting the HIF pathway and inducing apoptosis.

## Commercial Potential

Elara expects its approach to be superior to existing treatments in the more than \$75 bn cancer market as its HIF-inhibitors work upstream of established pathways and targets involved in tumor growth. The Company's proprietary compounds are thus expected to have very broad applicability in oncology. Interfering with HIF signaling has the potential to make tumor cells more sensitive to stress such as radiation and chemotherapy, thereby enhancing efficacy of these treatments. In addition, tumor resistance development is expected to be less likely as HIF is a key player in pathways of cellular hypoxic response. Moreover, the compounds' dual mode of action both inhibiting the hypoxia signaling pathway and inducing apoptosis are expected to bring significant clinical advantages.

Elara is developing its compounds for single agent and combination treatments and is looking for investors and pharma partners to advance its pipeline to clinical proof of concept and beyond.

## Founded

2006

## Location

Heidelberg, Germany

## Management

Dr Joe Lewis (CEO)  
Dr Bernd Janssen (CSO)  
Sally Watson (Head F&A)

## Number of Employees

11

## Focus

Cancer

## Indications

Multiple myeloma, solid tumors

## Pipeline

EL101 (preclinical, multiple myeloma and solid tumors)  
EL102, EL103 (Backups)  
BAZ series (lead optimization; solid tumors, taxane-resistant cancers)  
THQ series (lead optimization; solid tumors)

## Financing History

€ 2.6 million in one round

## Investors

EMBL Ventures; KfW Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau; Wagnisfinanzierungsgesellschaft für Technologieförderung in Rheinland-Pfalz (WFT)

## Grants

GOBio, BMBF  
BioRN Spitzencluster, BMBF

## Supervisory Board

Dr David Owen (Chairman)  
Dr Gerhard Keilhauer  
Dr Sue Foden

## Scientific Advisory Board

Prof Frank Giles

## More Information:

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