



## **Photonamic and Photonics Healthcare strengthen collaboration after successful clinical pilot study of oxygen measurement technology**

**Pinneberg, Germany and Utrecht, The Netherlands – April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023:**

photonamic GmbH & Co KG (Photonamic), a pharmaceutical company focused on the development of 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) in various applications, and Photonics Healthcare (Photonics), a medical technology company developing a novel technology for oxygen measurement in skin cells, announced that the two companies will further strengthen their strategic and financial partnership.

Photonamic and Photonics have been collaborating for several years to drive forward the development of the two companies' complementary technologies, where Photonics' COMET system combined with photonamic's dermal patch containing 5-ALA have shown promising results as an innovative, non-invasive oxygen measurement system, which has potential benefits over existing techniques. Surrogate measures of oxygen delivery and organ function are helpful in anesthesiology as well as intensive care. As of today, there is no technology available allowing the in-clinic measurement of oxygen availability in tissue cells. The COMET system provides a non-invasive measurement in the skin cell.

Based on the recent results of studies ran in the Netherlands, the two companies will strengthen their partnership and proceed with the consequent next steps to further develop this opportunity. As part of this, photonamic has increased its ownership share from 51% to 75.1% in Photonics. Dr. Ulrich Kosciessa, CEO of Photonamic: "We are very encouraged by the results of our initial pilot studies, which further strengthens our confidence in the COMET system combined with our 5-ALA dermal patch. With our increased financial commitment in Photonics and even more intensified collaboration of our researchers, we aim to accelerate the development of this innovative technology to help healthcare professionals and patients in critical care". Michael Münker, CEO of Photonics Healthcare: "Through our clinical pilot trials we were able to confirm the clinical relevance of the measurements. I very much look forward to developing our joint technology for future clinical application. Together we can select the most

feasible path to bring this technology to hospitals worldwide and thereby support doctors in anesthesiology and intensive care”.

### **About the 5-aminolevulinic acid and the COMET system**

5-aminolevulinic acid ("5-ALA") is an endogenous amino acid derivative produced in mitochondria. In cells, mitochondria use oxygen to create the molecule protoporphyrin IX (PPIX) after introduction of 5-ALA. After excitation with a short light beam of a relevant wavelength, the PPIX emits a characteristic fluorescence that fades out in darkness in a glow-like manner. The duration of this “afterglow” is dependent on oxygen. This allows the quantitative determination of oxygen availability in the cells of the skin tissue. With the COMET, non-invasive oxygen measurements are possible at the site where oxygen is needed: within the active cells. This measurement has already been tested in more than 20 clinical trials in several institutions in Germany and the Netherlands.

### **About photonamic GmbH & Co KG**

photonamic is a German-based company involved in the development of 5-ALA in various applications for medical use as well as food supplement and cosmetics. As a member of the SBI group with its parent company SBI ALApharma Hong Kong, photonamic has developed 5-ALA for the fluorescence-guided resection of glioblastoma, which is marketed as Gliolan<sup>®</sup>, Gleolan<sup>™</sup> or Alabel<sup>™</sup>. Also, photonamic has developed a medicated plaster containing 5-ALA for the treatment of actinic keratosis, which is marketed as Alacare<sup>®</sup>.

### **About Photonics Healthcare B.V.**

Photonics Healthcare BV is a Dutch medical device company, a spin-out of Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands and the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Its COMET measurement system was CE Marked in 2016. Together with photonamic’s 5-ALA dermal patch, the COMET provides the first method to measure oxygen pressure within tissue cells.