

NEWS RELEASE

Thomas Meier, PhD, Managing Partner at Viopas Venture Consulting, joins the Board of Directors of Visgenx, Inc.

Uster/Zürich, Switzerland, January 17, 2022 – Viopas Venture Consulting, dedicated advisor to Biotech, Pharma and Digital Health companies as well as investors in the healthcare industry with focus on Switzerland, Austria and Germany, announces today that Managing Partner Thomas Meier, PhD, joins the Board of Directors of Visgenx Inc., San Diego, CA (USA).

"I am delighted to join the Board of Visgenx as the company advances its innovative gene therapy approach for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration," commented **Thomas Meier, PhD**. "Visgenx' innovative approach to addressing this urgent unmet medical need is very unique and I look forward working with the Board and Management to drive the company's success."

"We are very pleased to welcome Thomas to our Board," added **Martin Emanuele, PhD, Co-founder and CEO of Visgenx**. "His experience in drug development, business acumen and experience in the management of emerging biotech companies add perfectly to the skills already represented on our Board."

About Visgenx, Inc.

Visgenx is a privately held company based in San Diego, CA (www.visgenx.com) developing innovative treatments for certain forms of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which is one of the leading causes of blindness worldwide. Long-chain and very long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids have been linked to AMD pathogenesis through epidemiologic, biochemical, and genetic studies. Impaired expression of the ELOVL fatty acid elongase 2 gene (ELOVL2) alters lipid content in the retina directly impairing photoreceptor function and also causing increased endoplasmic reticulum stress and mitochondrial dysfunction, leading to accelerated cellular aging. The company's gene therapy approach for dry AMD relies on increasing the expression of ELOVL2 with the aim of restoring synthesis of long-chain and very long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids to improve retinal function in patients with dry AMD. In another approach to increase ELOVL2 expression in the retina, Visgenx has developed proprietary microparticles for delivering the de-methylating agent decitabine to the retina. Aging-related hypermethylation of the ELOV2 gene is believed to down regulate its expression. Thus, de-methylation may be a useful approach for restoring ELOVL2 expression and treating dry-AMD.

About Viopas Venture Consulting (VVC)

Viopas Venture Consulting is an advisory and consultancy boutique for the life science industry and healthcare investors with focus on Switzerland, Austria and Germany. The firm's clients are Biotech, early-stage and established Pharma and Digital Health companies seeking advice in business development, corporate strategy, M&A and financing. In addition, VVC supports and consults investors interested in the healthcare industry, including family offices, high-net worth individuals and institutional investors. VVC's managing partners Thomas Meier and Simon Nebel are also partners of Board Advisors Deutschland AG (www.boardadvisors.de).

Contacts

www.viopasventure.ch

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