

Novartis gets in on alpha-synuclein



[Madeleine Armstrong](#)

Novartis is hardly known for novel CNS projects. But today the group took a punt on a potentially disease-modifying mechanism for Parkinson's, via a deal with UCB. The target, alpha-synuclein, has had its fair share of setbacks, with Roche and Prothena last year [reporting mixed data](#) with their antibody, prasinezumab, and [Biogen this year discontinuing BIIB054](#). At least Novartis has not paid top dollar: the company is giving UCB \$150m up front, although it is on the hook for up to \$1.5bn in milestones. In return, the Swiss company gets global co-development and co-commercialisation rights to UCB0599, an oral, brain-penetrant alpha-synuclein misfolding inhibitor, and an option on UCB7853, an anti-alpha-synuclein antibody. The two projects could complement each other, UCB noted. As well as Roche and Prothena, which are pressing on with prasinezumab, other companies looking at this target include AC Immune, which [struck its own deal here in July](#). Annovis Bio's ANVS401, meanwhile, inhibits amyloid-beta and tau as well as alpha-synuclein - that group is planning phase 3 trials in both Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, but [phase 2 data have been far from convincing](#).

Alpha-synuclein-targeting projects in clinical development

Project	Company	Description	Trial details
Phase 2			
ANVS401	Annovis Bio	Small molecule amyloid precursor protein, alpha-synuclein & Tau inhibitor	Ph2 PD data reported Oct 2021, ph3 planned
Prasinezumab (PRX002/RO7046015)	Prothena/Roche	Anti-alpha-synuclein Mab	PD: Ph2 Pasadena failed, Ph2b Padova began May 2021
ENT-01	Enterin	Small molecule alpha-synuclein aggregation inhibitor	Ph2 Karmet in PD-related constipation completed Jul 2021; Ph2 planned in PD+psychosis & PD+dementia
Lu AF82422	Lundbeck/Genmab	Anti-alpha-synuclein Mab	Amulet in multiple system atrophy completes May 2023
UCB0599	Novartis/UCB (licensed from Neuropore Therapies)	Small molecule alpha-synuclein misfolding inhibitor	Ph2 in PD completes Jul 2024
Phase 1			
ACI-7104 (PD01)	AC Immune (via Affiris)	Anti-alpha-synuclein vaccine	Ph1 completed, ph2 to start "shortly"
MEDI341 (TAK-341)	Astrazeneca/Takeda	Anti-alpha-synuclein Mab	MAD trial in PD completes Jul 2022
ION464 (BIIB101)	Biogen/Ionis	Alpha-synuclein antisense	Horizon in multiple system atrophy completes Jul 2022
UB-312	Vaxxinity	Anti-alpha-synuclein vaccine	Ph1 in healthy volunteers & PD pts completes Dec 2022
UCB7853	UCB (Novartis has option)	Anti-alpha-synuclein Mab	Ph1 in healthy volunteers & PD pts completes Jun 2023
ABBV-0805	Abbvie/Bioarctic	Anti-alpha-synuclein Mab	Ph1 withdrawn for "strategic reasons", project still listed on pipeline

Source: Evaluate Pharma & clinicaltrials.gov.

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