

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Thestra Oy and Orion Pharma Enter Collaboration Agreement in Head and Neck Cancer Research

Turku, Finland – Thestra Oy and Orion Corporation (Orion Pharma) have signed a collaboration agreement focused on advancing research in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC). HNSCC is among the leading cancers with approximately one million new cases globally. Despite decades of research, there is neither targeted therapies nor patient stratification methods for HNSCC patients in routine clinical use. The collaboration brings together Thestra’s deep disease-specific expertise with Orion’s strong capabilities as Finland’s leading pharmaceutical company.

Thestra has developed unique scientific know-how in HNSCC, including patient therapy stratification technologies, and translational and biology-driven approaches that address key unmet medical needs in this challenging cancer area. Orion has recognized the potential of Thestra’s expertise to complement its own oncology research and development efforts.

“We are excited to collaborate with Orion, a leading Finnish drug development company with a long-standing track record of pharmaceutical innovation and impact,” said Thestra’s Chairman of the board Tom Palenius. This partnership allows us to apply the expertise we have gathered on HNSCC over decades of research work in a broader development context and work with a highly respected partner,” added Thestra’s Chief Medical Officer and co-founder Sami Ventelä.

Orion views the collaboration as an opportunity to enhance its oncology pipeline by gaining valuable scientific insights that can support and advance its innovation efforts.

“Thestra’s specialized knowledge in head and neck cancer makes them a highly interesting partner for us,” commented Anu Moilanen, Vice President of Oncology Research at Orion Pharma.

About Thestra Oy

Thestra Oy is a Finnish biotechnology company focused on developing cancer patient therapy stratification methods and solutions, with particular emphasis on head and neck cancers. The company combines deep disease biology expertise with translational research approaches to support the development of better patient selection approaches to increase success in therapies with less side effects.

About Orion Corporation

Orion is a globally operating Nordic pharmaceutical company – a builder of well-being for over a hundred years. We develop, manufacture and market human and veterinary pharmaceuticals and active pharmaceutical ingredients. Orion has an extensive portfolio of proprietary and generic medicines and consumer health products. The core therapy areas of our pharmaceutical R&D are oncology and pain. Proprietary products developed by Orion are used to treat cancer, neurological diseases and respiratory diseases, among others. In 2024 Orion's net sales amounted to EUR 1,542 million and the company employed about 3,700 professionals worldwide, dedicated to building well-being. Orion's A and B shares are listed on Nasdaq Helsinki.