

# Cothera Bioscience Acquires Zotiraciclib from AdastrA Pharmaceuticals

*Cothera to Advance Clinical Development of Oral Kinase Inhibitor with Unique Myc Depletion*

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, USA, October 6, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Cothera Bioscience Inc. and AdastrA Pharmaceuticals Inc., private biopharmaceutical companies focused on the development of first-in-class therapeutics for the treatment of cancer, today announced a definitive agreement under which Cothera has acquired zotiraciclib (ZTR), an oral kinase inhibitor that readily crosses the blood brain barrier and possesses a unique mechanism of action of Myc depletion via the inhibition of cyclin-dependent kinase 9 (CDK9). Financial terms of the asset purchase were not disclosed.



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I want to thank all the physicians and dedicated healthcare providers who have put forward relentless effort on behalf of their patients as the AdastrA team transitions zotiraciclib into Cothera.”

*Scott Megaffin, Chief Executive Officer, AdastrA*

In June 2021, the results of the zotiraciclib Phase 1b clinical trial were published in [Clinical Cancer Research](#). The conclusion of the Phase 1b trial found that Zotiraciclib combined with temozolomide (TMZ) is safe in patients with recurrent high-grade astrocytomas.

After the conclusion of the trial a successful Type B meeting with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Division of Oncology (D02) was held. The transition of ZTR from AdastrA to Cothera enables the execution of clinical development plans built on input from the FDA meeting, as well as insight from global neuro-oncology thought-leaders and clinical investigators.

“The acquisition of zotiraciclib fits nicely into the Cothera portfolio of differentiated drug candidates synergistically aligning to our current research efforts to address cancers driven by

the Myc oncogene,” said Alex Wu, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Cothera. “Importantly, zotiraciclib adds to the Cothera portfolio of therapeutics that hold promise for cancer patients around the world.”

Scott Megaffin, Chief Executive Officer of Adastrax, said, “I want to thank all the physicians and dedicated healthcare providers who have put forward relentless effort on behalf of their patients as the Adastrax team transitions zotiraciclib into Cothera.”

Vernon Jiang, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and Co-Founder of Cothera, added, “We are grateful to Adastrax for its important work with physicians within neuro-oncology. Cothera is enthusiastic to build upon these relationships, as we believe highly in the promise of zotiraciclib in high-grade gliomas and pediatric mid-line gliomas such as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

#### About Cothera

Cothera Bioscience is a clinical stage biotech company developing therapeutics for previous undruggable oncology targets with high unmet medical needs. The company’s strength is in its clinically validated translational platform exploiting synthetic lethality and protein degradation pathways for cancer killing. The company has developed a series of new drugs targeting the Myc and Kras and BRAF mutant cancers with clinical trials launched in the US, EU and Asia. For more information, visit [www.cotherabio.com](http://www.cotherabio.com).

#### About Adastrax

Adastrax Pharmaceuticals Inc. is a private, clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company committed to providing responsible solutions to advance patient care in oncology. We invite you to learn more about Adastrax, the zotiraciclib clinical information and our scientific partners by visiting [www.adastrax.com](http://www.adastrax.com)

#### Contacts:

##### Media:

David Schull  
Russo Partners  
(858) 717-2310  
[david.schull@russopartnersllc.com](mailto:david.schull@russopartnersllc.com)

Alex Wu, Ph.D.  
Cothera Bioscience  
[info@cotherabio.com](mailto:info@cotherabio.com)

Scott Megaffin  
Adastrax Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
[info@adastrax.com](mailto:info@adastrax.com)

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