



The preclinical biotech startup EraCal Therapeutics Ltd. develops a novel anti-obesity drug with superior efficacy and tolerability compared to the standard of care in animal models. An ambitious team with world-class advisors leads the research around appetite modulation. EraCal's phenotypic drug discovery platform is applicable to other indications. EraCal originates from the University of Zurich and Harvard University, and closed a CHF 6M seed round in 2019.

## 1. Obesity and its complications are a rapidly growing unmet medical need

Obesity is a chronic disease affecting close to 25% of the global population, reduces life expectancy on average by 4 years and causes severe complications such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, vulnerability to COVID19, among many others. Since current therapies offer a poor benefit/risk ratio, a safe and efficacious anti-obesity drug is expected to revolutionize obese patient therapy and disrupt its current global market of USD >77 billion (UBS Investment report).

## 2. Era-379 is superior to the standard of care in obesity treatment

EraCal aims to develop a well-tolerated and efficacious weight-lowering drug for obese patients. Era-379 is an oral appetite suppressor with superior efficacy and tolerability compared to the standard of care validated in animal models. The mode of action of Era-379 is distinct from available anti-obesity drugs. The Era-379 family represents new chemical entities with drug-like physicochemical properties, a steep structure-activity relationship defined *in vivo* based on >30 close-analogs, and stage appropriate safety package. EraCal filed a patent application for the Era-379 family.

## 3. EraCal operates a platform for large-scale and unbiased *in vivo* drug discovery

The *in vivo* drug discovery strategy of EraCal is unbiased and is distinct from the *in vitro*/cellular and target-centric approach currently employed in the pharmaceutical industry. This phenotypic platform enabled the identification of Era-379 out of more than ten thousand small molecules tested in larval zebrafish, a vertebrate species (Jordi et al., Science Advances 2018). As a consequence *in vivo* bioavailability and toxicity are part of the initial screening phase. The platform design counter-screens for molecules with undesired *in vivo* side effects, thus enabling the selection of cleaner lead molecules.

## 4. EraCal's bold team and its world-class advisors

<b>J. Jordi Ph.D.</b>	CEO and co-founder – vision, implementation, and lead of EraCal development
<b>S. Breitler Ph.D.</b>	COO and co-founder – lead of EraCal's development and chemistry
<b>A. Kessler Ph.D.</b>	Chairman of the Board – orlistat lead, past global head portfolio management and member global research and development board at Roche
<b>B. Ernst Ph.D.</b>	Board Member – Biotech serial-entrepreneur and life-science investor
<b>Prof. H.R. Künzle</b>	Board Member – founding partner of Kendris Ltd. (a spin-off of KPMG)
<b>N. Geiser Ph.D.</b>	Board Observer – Investment Manager Redalpine
<b>H. Böttcher Ph.D.</b>	advisor – vilazodone inventor, former head medicinal chemistry at Merck KGaA
<b>Prof. F. Engert</b>	advisor – Harvard University, an expert in behavioral neuroscience
<b>G. Meyer Ph.D.</b>	advisor – Head of the Switzerland Office of Plexus Ventures LLC
<b>Prof. T. Lutz</b>	advisor – University of Zurich, an expert in obesity research
<b>Investors</b>	CHF 6M seed financing led by Bernina BioInvest, Redalpine, Life Sciences Fund (Novartis Venture Fund & UZH Foundation), and invited private investors
<b>Awards</b>	VentureKick winner, MIT life science angels award, IMD-StartUp competition
<b>Grants</b>	>CHF 2M in non-dilutive grants incl. SNF-BRIDGE, Innosuisse, etc.

## 5. EraCal's implementation plan

EraCal finalizes Era-379 lead-optimization prior to CMC/GLP-safety studies. First in human studies are scheduled to commence in H1 2024. In parallel, the drug discovery platform is tailored to new indications, e.g. appetite-inducers, energy expenditure and sleep, which will lead to a pipeline expansion. EraCal will raise its series A financing by Q2 / 2022 to bring Era-379 into phase 1.