



**Revolution in the field of eye diseases:  
biotech research collaboration between Naples and Tokyo to develop revolutionary therapies**

Naples (Italy), and Tokyo (Japan), February 5<sup>th</sup> 2025

***Ophyx** is a new biotech company that intends to revolutionize the approach for the treatment of some important and widespread eye diseases. It is a cutting-edge project resulting from a collaboration between **BIOVIIIx** and **TAGCyx**.*

**AnBition**, a biotech start-up participated by **BIOVIIIx**, recently signed a basic agreement with the Japanese company **TAGCyx** Biotechnologies to create a new joint venture company where the assets of the ophthalmology pipelines of the respective companies will converge. The new company will be called **Ophyx**. The target therapeutic areas of **Ophyx**'s assets are DED (Dry Eye Disease), AMD (Age-related Macular Degeneration) and DR (Diabetic Retinopathy): in these segments, **Ophyx** intends to introduce therapies that will revolutionize current therapeutic treatments, with a favorable impact on patients' quality of life and therapeutic adherence. An ambitious project with an international focus.

**Ophyx** will develop the first oral therapy for the treatment of neovascular eye diseases, aiming at overcoming the current approach based solely on intraocular injections. "Today, most ophthalmological AMD therapies involve intraocular injection, an invasive and impactful procedure for patients," explains Davide Rosiello, founder and CEO of **BIOVIIIx** and of its subsidiary **AnBition**. "We have the ambition to radically change this paradigm thanks to a pill that can guarantee the same therapeutic efficacy: to date, in fact, there is no oral therapy for these pathologies."

Chizuko Koseki, president and CEO of **TAGCyx**, adds, "I am delighted to start this alliance with **AnBition**, as we share the innovative approach of searching for new and disruptive therapeutic solutions in ophthalmology, in alignment with the tradition of my company's research in the field of DED. Our proprietary first-in-class DNA aptamer with potent anti-interferon gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) antagonistic activity will hopefully help as many patients as possible with the fast-acting treatment."

The potential impact of these innovations is enormous, considering that DED alone affects more than 344 millions people worldwide, while AMD is expected to increase from 190 millions in 2020 to 280 millions of patients in 2040, as Sandro De Falco and Menotti Ruvo, **AnBition** research managers, point out. Diabetic retinopathy is also a growing challenge: with cases of diabetes rising from 450 to 650 millions over the next two decades, more than 70 million patients are expected to have severe vision problems related to the disease.

**Ophyx** was born out of the need to be more appealing and attractive in the financial markets to attract capital. In fact, having more assets in the pipeline reduces the risk for venture capital investors that **Ophyx** intends to seek to secure the fund raising necessary to conclude preclinical safety studies and start first-in patient clinical studies.

*Ophyx's advisor is Hiroshi Yamamoto, managing director of international investment bank **Locust Walk** ( [hyamamoto@locustwalk.com](mailto:hyamamoto@locustwalk.com) ; +81 70 3322 2802).*



### **BIOVIIIx**

Founded in June 2013 by Davide Rosiello, BIOVIIIx represents a pioneering company in the field of blood products. Initially conceived as a partner of big pharmaceutical companies, **BIOVIIIx** quickly consolidated its position in the Italian and international markets.

Today, **BIOVIIIx** continues to expand both in terms of turnover and workforce, with recent acquisitions and a clear vision focused on innovation and internationalization, with already four worldwide patents in its portfolio.

### **TAGCyx**

TAGCyx Biotechnologies is a company founded in 2007 in Tokyo, whose partners include prestigious investors such as SMBC Venture Capital Co. Ltd., NISSAY CAPITAL CO. LTD., UTokyo Innovation Platform Co. Ltd., Mizuho Capital Co. Ltd., SBI Investment Co. Ltd. and Healthcare Innovation Co. Ltd. The company owns the “Xenoligo®” platform for DNA aptamer discovery based on innovative artificial base pairing technology. Besides DED, the company is active in research in the following therapeutic areas: Hunner-type interstitial cystitis, alopecia areata, immune-mediated Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (iTTP), and preeclampsia.