

## **Roche Pharma South Africa announces partnership with Biomab to improve access to cancer medicines**

**Johannesburg, 6 July 2020:** Roche Pharma South Africa has announced a new partnership with Biomab, a Eurolab Associated company, to market its cancer drugs in the oncology private sector market. The partnership, which includes the oncology drugs Trastuzumab (Herceptin IV and Herceptin SC), was designed as a 'co-marketing agreement' to bring together the complementary capabilities of both companies along with Roche's long history of innovation to broaden access to key oncology medicines,

“Roche is fully committed to improving access, so that every person who needs our medicines can benefit from them. This new partnership with Biomab is part of our ongoing efforts to continuously and sustainably reduce barriers, increase access and ultimately help improve patient outcomes,” said David Gibbons, General Manager Roche Pharma South Africa.

“This partnership will help to strengthen and maintain standards of care offered in the HER2+ disease area. We are ensuring we continue to enable patients in South Africa to access originator medicines with a long, proven history of efficacy and safety,” he added.

“We are pleased to take this next step in our commercial partnership to support expanding access to more patients in South Africa, to improve patient outcomes,” said Lynne Du Toit, Chief Executive Officer of Eurolab.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women of all races, with a lifetime risk of 1 in 27 in South Africa, according to the 2014 National Cancer Registry (NCR).<sup>1</sup> In 2018, over 14,000 women were diagnosed with the disease in South Africa.<sup>1</sup> People can reduce their risk of breast cancer by having a healthy diet, ensuring they are physically active and reducing their alcohol intake.<sup>2</sup> Checking your breasts monthly for lumps, bumps and other changes and going to the doctor at the first sign of changes is also vital.

Each year, Roche supports patients, carers and the general public through awareness campaigns, advising them on how to prevent or spot the signs and symptoms of diseases at their earliest stages. “The long-term goal is to prevent and cure all cancers, and with Roche's passion for development, we will continue to advance cancer treatments”, said Gibbons.

1. CANSA, Fact Sheet on Breast Cancer in Women, <https://cansa.org.za/files/2020/03/Fact-Sheet-on-Breast-Cancerin-Women-NCR-2014-web-March-2020.pdf> (Accessed June 2020)
2. WHO, Breast Cancer: Prevention and control, <https://www.who.int/cancer/detection/breastcancer/en/index3.html> (Accessed June 2020)

## **About Roche**

Roche is a global pioneer in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics focused on advancing science to improve people's lives. The combined strengths of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics under one roof have made Roche the leader in personalised healthcare – a strategy that aims to fit the right treatment to each patient in the best way possible.

Roche is the world's largest biotech company, with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and diseases of the central nervous system. Roche is also the world leader in in vitro diagnostics and tissue-based cancer diagnostics, and a frontrunner in diabetes management.

Founded in 1896, Roche continues to search for better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases and make a sustainable contribution to society. The company also aims to improve patient access to medical innovations by working with all relevant stakeholders. More than thirty medicines developed by Roche are included in the World Health Organization Model Lists of Essential Medicines, among them life-saving antibiotics, antimalarials and cancer medicines. Moreover, for the eleventh consecutive year, Roche has been recognised as one of the most sustainable companies in the Pharmaceuticals Industry by the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI).

The Roche Group, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, is active in over 100 countries and in 2019 employed about 98,000 people worldwide. In 2019, Roche invested CHF 11.7 billion in R&D and posted sales of CHF 61.5 billion. Genentech, in the United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche is the majority shareholder in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information, please visit [www.roche.com](http://www.roche.com).

## **About Biomab, a Eurolab Associated company**

Eurolab is the largest generic oncology company in South Africa and one of the most innovative in cancer treatment, cancer management and cancer care. Headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa, Eurolab provides treatment therapies and technologies for oncologists to offer their patients the best, the latest and the most affordable options for their cancer treatment.