

PRAGMA Therapeutics SAS, a leading biopharmaceutical company in the field of stress and trauma-related disorders, announced today that it has received a Translational Research Initiative for Hearing (TRIH) award from the charity Action on Hearing Loss to develop novel small molecule drugs for the treatment of Sensorineural Hearing Loss in both civilian and military patient populations. To this end, PRAGMA has established an international collaboration with world-renowned Professor Robert Frisina, Director of the Global Center for Hearing & Speech Research at the University of South Florida, and principal investigator to perform efficacy studies in translational animal models of hearing loss.

Hearing loss is by far the most prevalent inner ear disorder; the World Health Organization estimates that 500 million people worldwide have mild to moderate to severe hearing loss. Hearing loss may develop slowly or due to insuff

icient sound conduction from the outer to the inner ear or much more frequently to damage to the hair cells and neurons in the cochlea or to the auditory nerve ("sensorineural hearing loss"). Chronic hearing loss may have serious impacts on professional and personal lives, e.g. through reduced job performance and earning power, impaired memory and ability to learn new tasks or

The objective of the project team is to demonstrate oral proof-of-concept and identify biomarkers in animals, and to select a preclinical candidate which will be capable of further development into a drug.

☒RAGMA has built a fast-

GCHSR is an internationally recognized center for research and development at the University of South Florida, advancing our understanding of the characteristics and biological causes of hearing loss and deafness; providing novel bases for new drug, technological and behavioral interventions and treatments: [www.gchsr.usf.edu](http://www.gchsr.usf.edu)



PRAGMA Therapeutics is a French pharmaceutical company discovering and developing innovative medicines acting at a unique biological target for the treatment of patients suffering from severe debilitating CNS disorders such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and hearing loss. PRAGMA aims at preventing and treating both civilian and military populations with an unprecedented mechanism-of-action supported by strong scientific rational and genetic evidences. For more information, please go to [www.pragmatherapeutics.com](http://www.pragmatherapeutics.com).