

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Beactica scientists describe methodological advances for the discovery of drugs targeting ion channels**

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Beactica, the leading Swedish fragment-based drug discovery company, today announced the publication of a key paper in the scientific journal *Biochemical Pharmacology*\*. The paper presents methodological advances in SPR biosensor-based drug discovery targeting ligand-gated ion channels, a significant challenge to the pharmaceutical industry.

The publication outlines work on the GABA<sub>A</sub> family of receptors, known to be involved in a wide range of neurological functions, such as anxiety, depression, chronic pain, schizophrenia, epilepsy and recovery from stroke. The Beactica scientists applied an SPR biosensor-based approach to identify ligands binding to the receptor, a considerable challenge considering that the receptors are membrane bound. The results are of relevance not only for elucidating the function and pharmacology of GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors, but also for discovery of drugs against GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors and other ligand-gated ion channel receptors.

The research was performed in collaboration with scientists at the Centre for Brain Research at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, and Uppsala University, Sweden. It is part of NeuroCypres, a project funded through EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. For more information, please visit [www.neurocypres.eu](http://www.neurocypres.eu).

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#### **\* Publication reference**

Seeger *et al.*, Histaminergic pharmacology of homo-oligomeric  $\beta$ 3  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid type A receptors characterized by surface plasmon resonance, *Biochemical Pharmacology*, 2012, 84:341–51 (DOI: 10.1016/j.bcp.2012.04.008).

#### **About Beactica**

Beactica AB is a specialist drug discovery company, utilising its proprietary methodologies to evaluate the biophysical interaction of molecules in order to generate novel therapeutics. The Company offers expertise and services in the area of SPR biosensor-based small molecule interaction analysis and partnerships for fragment-based lead generation using its proprietary Sprint™ platform. Founded in 2006 based on research carried out at Uppsala University, Beactica has established a robust reputation as the leader in SPR-based small molecule drug discovery. As well as providing services and building collaborations with external companies, Beactica is progressing its own drug discovery programmes. For more information, please visit [www.beactica.com](http://www.beactica.com).