

## Press Release

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# Nicox Outlines Plans to Progress NCX 4251 into Phase 2b Trial Following Positive Meeting with FDA

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Sophia Antipolis, France

**Nicox SA** (Euronext Paris: FR0013018124, COX), an international ophthalmology company, announced today that it has held a Type C meeting with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in which the data from the recently completed Danube Phase 2 clinical trial of NCX 4251 was reviewed and the next NCX 4251 trial designs were discussed. Given the positive Danube Phase 2 trial results in reduction of the signs and symptoms of both blepharitis and dry eye disease, an agreement was reached with the U.S. FDA for NCX 4251 Phase 2b trial designs in both acute exacerbations of blepharitis and the reduction of signs and symptoms of dry eye disease. NCX 4251, a novel patented ophthalmic suspension of fluticasone propionate nanocrystals, has the potential for development in blepharitis and in dry eye disease, and is Nicox's second product candidate in clinical development.

*“Following our successful meeting with the FDA, we plan to conduct a Phase 2b efficacy and safety trial of NCX 4251 including both blepharitis and dry eye endpoints. Based on the FDA meeting outcome, Nicox has the option to declare either the blepharitis endpoint or dry eye endpoints as the primary efficacy outcome of this trial,” said Dr. Tomas Navratil, PhD, EVP & Head of R&D of the Nicox Group and General Manager of Nicox Ophthalmics, Inc. “Based on the positive outcome of the Danube clinical trial, we will continue the development with the 0.1% once a day dose of NCX 4251, and will announce the timing and further Phase 2b trial design details in due course.”*

The Danube trial was a U.S. multicenter, double-masked, dose escalating, first-in-human, Phase 2 clinical trial which evaluated the safety and tolerability of NCX 4251 in patients with acute exacerbations of blepharitis. The primary objective of the Danube trial was to select the dose(s) of NCX 4251 to advance into the next stage of development. Both once daily (QD) and twice daily (BID) NCX 4251 0.1% were well tolerated and there were no treatment related serious adverse events nor adverse events of intraocular pressure elevation, the most common side effect of topical ophthalmic steroids. Although the trial was not powered for efficacy, prospectively defined pooled analysis of QD and BID NCX 4251 0.1% demonstrated statistically significant reduction in signs and symptoms of blepharitis (n=20 for NCX 4251 0.1% and n=16 for placebo). Based on these results, NCX 4251 0.1% QD treatment was selected to advance into a larger Phase 2b clinical trial. The selected dose also demonstrated promising efficacy against exploratory endpoints in the trial in reducing the signs and symptoms of dry eye disease. The timing of the future program for NCX 4251 is subject to securing the financial resources to advance its development.

### About NCX 4251

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NCX 4251 is a novel patented ophthalmic suspension of fluticasone propionate nanocrystals which is being developed as a targeted topical treatment of the eyelid margin for patients with acute exacerbations of blepharitis. We believe that this is the first time that fluticasone propionate is being developed for an ophthalmic indication, and that NCX 4251 is the first product candidate developed as a targeted topical treatment of the eyelid margin for patients with acute exacerbations of blepharitis. Thus we believe that NCX 4251 may be able to achieve first-in-class status as a treatment for this indication. Blepharitis is a common eye condition characterized by eyelid inflammation. NCX 4251 is being developed for application via eyelid applicator to the eyelid margin, applied directly to the site where the disease originates and thereby potentially minimizing penetration of the drug through the cornea which can lead to the damaging side effects such as intraocular pressure (IOP) increase found with current topical steroids.

Fluticasone propionate, the active ingredient in NCX 4251, which has not previously been approved in a topical formulation for use in ophthalmology, has an affinity for the glucocorticoid receptor which is approximately ten times greater than dexamethasone, a corticosteroid commonly used in ophthalmology. Fluticasone is a glucocorticoid with potent anti-inflammatory properties that has

been approved in numerous drug products over the past 20 years for the treatment of various indications including dermatology, rhinitis and asthma.

### Blepharitis – an untapped market

Blepharitis is a condition in which the margins of the eyelids become red and swollen and may contain dandruff like matter. Of patients seen by ophthalmologists and optometrists, 37% and 47%, respectively, present with signs of the disease. There is currently no FDA-approved prescription product solely indicated for blepharitis, which limits our ability to estimate prevalence and market size. There are, however, antimicrobial and antibiotic products, such as ointments and eye drops, indicated for the treatment of blepharitis, as well as other conditions. Treatment options also include lid scrubs, topical ophthalmic steroids, topical ophthalmic antibiotics and topical ophthalmic antibiotic/steroid combinations. We estimate that the market for treatment of acute exacerbations of blepharitis in the U.S. alone may be more than \$700 million, rising to over \$1 billion by 2024.

### About Nicox

Nicox S.A. is an ophthalmology company developing innovative solutions to help maintain vision and improve ocular health. Nicox's lead program in clinical development is NCX 470, a novel, second-generation nitric oxide-donating bimatoprost analog, for lowering intraocular pressure in patients with glaucoma. The company is also developing NCX 4251, a proprietary formulation of fluticasone, for acute exacerbations of blepharitis. Nicox generates revenue from VYZULTA® in glaucoma, licensed exclusively worldwide to Bausch & Lomb, and ZERVIA™ in allergic conjunctivitis, licensed in multiple geographies, including to Eyeavance Pharmaceuticals, LLC, in the U.S. and Ocumension Therapeutics in the Chinese and Southeast Asian markets.

Nicox is headquartered in Sophia Antipolis, France, is listed on Euronext Paris (Compartment B: Mid Caps; Ticker symbol: COX) and is part of the CAC Healthcare, CAC Pharma & Bio and Next 150 indexes.

For more information on Nicox, its products or pipeline, please visit: [www.nicox.com](http://www.nicox.com).

### Analyst coverage

Bryan, Garnier & Co	Victor Floc'h	Paris, France
Cantor Fitzgerald	Louise Chen	New York, U.S.
H.C. Wainwright & Co	Yi Chen	New York, U.S.
Oppenheimer & Co	Hartaj Singh	New York, U.S.



*The views expressed by analysts in their coverage of Nicox are those of the author and do not reflect the views of Nicox. Additionally, the information contained in their reports may not be correct or current. Nicox disavows any obligation to correct or to update the information contained in analyst reports.*

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### Forward-Looking Statements

The information contained in this document may be modified without prior notice. This information includes forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. These statements are based on current expectations or beliefs of the management of Nicox S.A. and are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. Nicox S.A. and its affiliates, directors, officers, employees, advisers or agents, do not undertake, nor do they have any obligation, to provide updates or to revise any forward-looking statements.

Risks factors which are likely to have a material effect on Nicox's business are presented in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the '*Document d'enregistrement universel, rapport financier annuel et rapport de gestion 2019*' filed with the French *Autorité des Marchés Financiers* (AMF) on March 6, 2020 which are available on Nicox's website ([www.nicox.com](http://www.nicox.com)).

**Nicox S.A.**

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