

# Swiss Biotech Success Stories award winner 2020

## Actelion



Actelion, a Janssen pharmaceutical company of Johnson & Johnson, is an industry leader in pulmonary hypertension.

Established in 1997, the founding members set out to build a company based on groundbreaking innovation and an unwavering commitment to patients.

After going public in April 2000, the company, led by CEO Jean-Paul Clozel M.D., launched its first product, Tracleer (bosentan), in the US in November 2001.

Since the beginning, Actelion, in addition to its focus on pulmonary hypertension, had built an active drug discovery and development organization specializing in the areas of immunology, central nervous system disorder, and rare diseases, which now continues in Idorsia. In addition, Actelion created a sales and marketing organization with global reach, leading to the launch of six new medicines, helping patients in the areas of pulmonary hypertension, lipid storage disorders, and skin cancer.

Actelion's groundbreaking medicines have been a key contributor to the remarkable improvement in prognosis for people with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). The median survival time has more than doubled over the past two decades to now greater than seven years with treatment.

After being acquired by Johnson & Johnson in June 2017, Actelion leveraged its established global presence and commercial strength bringing further resources, capabilities, and investment to change the future for people with PAH and other types of cardiopulmonary diseases. At the time of its acquisition, Actelion employed more than 2,600 people in over 30 affiliates, reaching more than 50 markets.

Since the acquisition, the development of one of Actelion's compounds, ponesimod, was transitioned to the Neuroscience Therapeutic Area of Janssen. It is being investigated for the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis in adults; last year encouraging Phase III trial results were published.

Despite much progress, PAH has no cure and four out of 10 patients die within seven years of diagnosis. However, building on its legacy of achievement, Actelion, as part of Johnson & Johnson, is committed to improving the lives of people affected by PAH and other types of pulmonary hypertension. The company remains the industry leader in the science and medicine of PAH.