

Swiss Biotech Success Stories award winner 2024

Dr. Hans-Peter Strebel



Dr. Hans-Peter Strebel founded Fumapharm AG with three other scientists in 1983. This was the start of more than 40 years of successful research leading to the development of Tecfidera, a disease modifying therapy for relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS) which has so far benefitted more than 600,000 patients worldwide.

The story began with approval from the German drug regulatory authority in 1994 for Fumaderm, an oral medication for the treatment of psoriasis. Fumapharm subsequently invested significant time and resources researching the mechanisms of action of individual components of the drug, which led to the discovery that one of the active ingredients, dimethylfumarate, could also be used to treat MS. In 2003, an intensive collaboration began with Biogen Idec, aiming to develop dimethylfumarate as a potential medication for MS. Biogen Idec contributed its expertise in the clinical development and approval of medications.

In 2013, after years of intensive, global clinical studies, Tecfidera® received approval from regulatory authorities in countries worldwide, including the FDA. Tecfidera was approved as an oral therapy option for patients with relapsing forms of MS and has since proved to be highly effective at reducing relapses and disease progression. Due to its efficacy, safety, and convenient oral administration, Tecfidera has become an important component of the treatment spectrum for MS patients, and represents a significant advancement in the treatment of relapsing forms of the disease.