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### Perrigo announces agreement with niche generic drug maker

By **Al Jones**

May 21, 2008, 9:40AM

ALLEGAN -- **Perrigo Co.** says it has entered a collaborative agreement to develop generic drugs with Cobrek Pharmaceuticals, a privately owned company that specializes in the research and development of niche generic products.

Under the agreement, Cobrek, which is a newly formed entity of **Pentech Pharmaceuticals Inc.**, will contribute to the collaboration its abbreviated new drug application for a generic equivalent to dermatoses and itchy scalp treatment Luxiq Foam. The brand product is produced by California-based **Connetics Corp.**

Perrigo is to contribute two of the early stage generic topical products in its drug pipeline to the collaboration, according to information provided by the company. In a press release, the companies said they will share the development costs and profits generated by the products.

Perrigo will also invest \$12.5 million in cash in Cobrek in exchange for a minority ownership position in that company.

Pentech, a 15-year-old prescription pharmaceuticals development company based in Rolling Meadows, Ill., has filed an abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for Luxiq Foam with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Connetics Corp., the new drug application holder for the brand product, filed suit against Pentech on Nov. 6, 2007, alleging patent infringement.

Perrigo Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Joe Papa, was positive about the Perrigo/Cobrek collaboration.

"Cobrek will utilize its proven ability to develop niche generic products while capitalizing on Perrigo's marketing and distribution capabilities," Papa stated in a Wednesday morning press release. "This strategic collaborative agreement and investment enhances our existing U.S. product portfolio and future pipeline, demonstrating our on-going commitment to the generic prescription

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dermatological space."

He said new and future products "will expand Perrigo's leadership position in this category and provide an opportunity for us to improve returns on one of our core businesses."

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