

J&J buys Alios Biopharma in a \$1.75 bn all cash deal

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The privately-held biopharmaceutical company is focused on developing medicines to fight viral diseases. The acquisition will include Alios' portfolio of potential therapeutics for viral infections including AL-8176, an orally administered antiviral therapy currently in Phase II for the treatment of infants with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Mr William Hait, global head of R&D at J&J's Janssen unit, said, "We are excited that this acquisition will enable us to explore treatment options for a number of viral infections, including RSV, the last of the major pediatric diseases with no available preventive therapy." He added, "AL-8176 complements our existing early stage portfolio for RSV which aims to prevent and treat this disease, the leading cause of acute lower respiratory infection in children under the age of five."

The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter this year.