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A Neovacs®' poster selected by the Scientific Committee of the 10th World Congress on Inflammation as one of the best in the Chemokines and Cytokines category

Neovacs® to present the preliminary results of its Phase I/II study of IFNα-Kinoid in lupus at the Congress in Paris on 28th June.

Paris, 10th June 2011 - Neovacs® (Alternext Paris : ALNEV), a biotech company focused on an active immunotherapy technology platform (Kinoids) with applications in the treatment of autoimmune diseases, inflammatory diseases and cancer, today announced that its poster presenting the preliminary results of its Phase I/II study of IFNα-Kinoid in lupus has received special mention by the Scientific Committee of the 10th World Congress on Inflammation. The Committee nominated it as a "High Graded Poster", that is to say one of the best in its category.

Commenting on this distinction, Guy-Charles Fanneau de la Horie, Neovacs®' CEO, said "This recognition confirms the significance of the results obtained so far in our Phase I/II trial of IFNα-Kinoid in lupus, and demonstrates the interest of the scientific community in our novel approach."

By way of reminder, the results highlight the good safety, the immunogenicity and, an important finding, the pharmacogenomic activity of the IFNα-Kinoid in lupus patients.

The IFN-K-001 Phase I/II study is a double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-escalation design testing four different IFNα-Kinoid dose levels. All patients recruited have mild to moderate lupus, defined as a SLEDAI[1] score of between 4 and 10. The main endpoints of the trial are the safety and tolerance of the IFNα-Kinoid, its capacity to induce an antibody response to IFNα, the evolution of clinical disease scores (such as SLEDAI) and biomarkers for disease activity, including the interferon signature which measures changes in the activity of genes that are overexpressed in Lupus. The promising results presented relate to the first three dose groups (30, 60 or 120 mcg of the Kinoid), comprising in total 20 patients. Results for the highest dose group of 8 patients at 240 mcg (including 2 placebo patients) are currently being collected and analyzed.

Across all the patients recruited in the first three dose cohorts, there has been no significant adverse event associated with the Kinoid, no unusual infection, and no patient has dropped out. This demonstrates the favourable safety profile of the product at these dose levels.

The IFNα-Kinoid is highly immunogenic

Antibodies to IFNα have been induced in 80% (12 of 15) patients treated with the Kinoid, and in all the patients that received the highest dose. This high response rate demonstrates the clear induction of an immune response with the IFNα-Kinoid. As expected, no immune response to IFNα was detected in the 5 placebo patients.

[1] Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index

The interferon signature: an important biomarker

The use of gene signatures has become an important tool to identify the genes implicated in diseases and to measure the impact of therapies. A number of research teams, notably in the United States, have identified the interferon signature as a potentially important biomarker in lupus.

Significant reduction in interferon signature in patients treated with the IFNα-Kinoid

It was possible to conduct the interferon signature analysis in 18 of the 20 patients included in this interim analysis. Of these 18 patients, 11 had a positive interferon alpha signature on study entry: 8 were treated with the Kinoid and 3 received the placebo. The Kinoid-treated group experienced a sharp reduction in interferon signature, demonstrating a significant down-regulation of genes associated with IFNα. The pharmaco-genomic activity of the IFNα-Kinoid is very encouraging because it shows that the antibodies to IFNα induced by Kinoid administration have a strong biological activity. The interferon gene signature will be included as one of the endpoints to be studied in later stages of development of the product. The median SLEDAI score declined in all the groups.

About lupus

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease in which the immune system produces antibodies to cells within the body leading to widespread inflammation and tissue damage. Prevalence estimates vary widely, and range as high as 1.5 million in North America (the Lupus Foundation of America) and 5 million worldwide. The Centers for Disease Control estimates a prevalence between 322,000 and one million with definite or probable SLE in the US. Lupus disease may first occur at any age, though peak diagnosis is between the ages of 15 and 40. It is far more common in women than men. People with SLE may experience fatigue, pain or swelling in joints, skin rashes, and fevers. It can also affect the lungs, kidneys, and blood vessels. It remains an area of significant unmet medical need. Scientists have highlighted the overproduction of the interferon alpha cytokine as a key factor in the causation and development of the disease.

About Neovacs®

Neovacs® is a biotechnology company focused on an active immunotherapy technology platform (Kinoids) with applications in autoimmune, inflammatory diseases and other chronic conditions. ***Neovacs®*** proprietary technology, protected by five patent families, aims to induce a polyclonal immune response from the patient's own immune system targeting an over-expressed cytokine. ***Neovacs®***' current portfolio consists of 3 drug candidates: TNF-Kinoid, IFNα-Kinoid and VEGF-Kinoid. The company's lead immunotherapy program (TNF-Kinoid) targets TNF-mediated chronic inflammatory diseases. For TNF-Kinoid, a Phase I/II clinical trial in Crohn's disease has been completed and Phase II trials in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and Crohn's Disease are ongoing. The RA clinical study is also the focus of collaboration with the French diagnostics company BMD, with the goal of developing theranostic tools in RA for patients who have become resistant to anti-TNF monoclonal antibodies. Patient recruitment is complete in a Phase I/II trial of ***Neovacs®***' second product candidate (IFNα -Kinoid, an immunotherapy targeting interferon alpha) in the treatment of lupus.

On April 1st, ***Neovacs®*** announced a capital increase of € 2.25 million, via the issuance of shares at 4€ per share: Debioinnovation SA, subsidiary of the Swiss Debiopharm Group, subscribed for € 1 million; Truffle Capital, the lead institutional investor in the Company and OTC Asset Management also subscribed to the capital increase in the amount of € 1.25 million, also at 4 euros per share.

For more information, visit the *Neovacs®* web site at www.neovacs.com

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