PRESS RELEASE

Gene Signal Announces Publication of Phase I Data Highlighting Safety of GS-101 for Diseases of the Eye

GS-101 Being Evaluated in Phase III to Prevent Corneal Graft Rejection

Lausanne, Switzerland, August 11, 2009 – Gene Signal, a company focused on developing innovative drugs to manage angiogenesis based conditions, today announced publication of data from a phase I study demonstrating that the antisense oligonucleotide GS-101 (eye drops) is safe, with no signs of intolerability following administration to healthy volunteers. GS-101 is an antisense oligonucleotide that acts by blocking the production of insulin receptor substrate 1 (IRS-1), a protein required for the formation and growth of new blood vessels. The data were published in the August 2009 issue of the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* (Vol. 68 (2) pp169-173) by researchers led by Dr. Hermann Kain, University Hospital Basel, Basle, Switzerland.

"This publication describes the excellent safety data we obtained from our first-in-man study with GS-101," noted Eric Viaud, CEO of Gene Signal. "We have moved GS-101 through clinical evaluation and are now conducting an international phase III trial for the prevention of pathologic corneal neovascularisation, a major risk factor in corneal graft rejection, the most common transplantation procedure that saves the sight of approximately 46,000 people worldwide each year."

Study Data

The phase I open-label study was designed to investigate the safety, tolerability and bioavailability of GS-101 (eye drops) in 14 healthy volunteers. Initially, one single low dose of GS-101 was administered into one eye. If no signs of intolerance were observed, subjects then received escalating doses of GS-101 (3 times daily) in one eye for 14 days. GS-101 was found to be safe and well tolerated by all 14 subjects in escalating doses (43 to 430 µg/day).

About Corneal Grafts and GS101

Every year, approximately 46,000 corneal grafts are performed worldwide to cure or prevent blindness making this procedure the most frequently performed transplant surgery. However, the 5 year failure rate for corneal grafts is currently around 35%. As with many other graft procedures, donor grafts are always in limited supply, with waiting times for the procedure ranging from 6 months to 2 years. One of the main reasons for graft failure is the natural immune response of the body.

Normally, the cornea is avascular, or deprived of blood and lymphatic vessels, protecting the donor cornea from being rejected. However, under certain circumstances, abnormal new blood vessel creation or neovascularisation occurs, inducing an immune response against the donor graft that can lead to immunological corneal graft rejection.

As currently there is no therapy available, Gene Signal is working on new ways to prevent this syndrome. With GS-101, its antisense oligonucleotide approach, which benefits from orphan designation in Europe, the company aims to block the pathways leading to the formation of blood vessels in the cornea. This approach uses short DNA fragments that specifically target and block the production of IRS-1, a protein required for the formation and growth of new blood vessels.

About Gene Signal

Gene Signal (www.genesignal.com) is developing a robust pipeline of novel antisense oligonucleotides, proteins and monoclonal antibodies to treat a range of conditions based on its innovative angiogenesis modulating technology. The company's most advanced therapeutic product is GS-101, an antisense oligonucleotide currently in phase III trials for the prevention of corneal graft rejection as well as clinical trials for additional angiogenesis based ophthalmology and dermal indications. Gene Signal's diverse pipeline also includes four molecules at the discovery stage addressing indications in the field of vascular disease and oncology.

Through world leading expertise in discovering genes involved in the regulation of angiogenesis, Gene Signal has built a significant intellectual property portfolio that has relevance in multiple disease areas. Gene Signal plans to license out its therapeutic portfolio of candidate drugs for co-development and commercialisation. The company was founded in 2000 and has assembled an outstanding leadership team that includes scientific, medical, regulatory and business professionals with successful track records in developing and commercialising state of the art drugs. Gene Signal's headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland, with its research programs based in France and product development in Canada.

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