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PDC Biotech GmbH announces start of Phase I trial – novel peptide for treatment of preterm labour and primary dysmenorrhea

VIENNA, AUSTRIA--(November 15, 2010) - PDC Biotech GmbH (PDC) today announced that it has received approval to initiate a Phase I clinical trial of PDC31 at three clinical sites in Austria and in Germany. The trial will be conducted in otherwise healthy women with primary dysmenorrhea, and will evaluate the safety and pharmacokinetics of the compound as well as its effects on uterine contractility.

PDC31 is a peptide antagonist of the prostaglandin F_{2α} (FP) receptor, the lead in a series of FP antagonists exclusively licensed to PDC Biotech GmbH from Theratechnologies, (TSX: TH), a Canadian biopharmaceutical company. This promising compound is being developed in an IV formulation for the treatment of preterm labour (PTL) and a nasal formulation for primary dysmenorrhea (PD). As there are no approved products on the market for PTL in the US, the market is extremely attractive. The PD market is estimated to be even larger.

Ms. Patricia Griffin and Ms. Diane Kalina, co-founders of PDC said they are pleased that the preclinical program and CTA process was completed on schedule and on budget. They are also encouraged by the strong support from the clinical investigators who are conducting the trial as well as their current investors, MIG Verwaltungs AG (Munich) and Edmond de Rothschild Investment Partners (Paris).

Preterm Labour

Preterm labour, which most often precedes preterm birth, is defined as regular uterine contractions associated with cervical changes occurring before 37 weeks of gestation. Preterm birth has increased to over 12% of all births in the US. It is still the leading cause of neonatal death and is associated with an increased risk of neonatal morbidity as well as longer term neurological deficits.

Primary Dysmenorrhea

Primary dysmenorrhea is a disabling condition found in 10 -15% of women of childbearing age with a high prevalence among adolescent females. Severe abdominal pain is caused by frequent and prolonged uterine contractions that decrease blood flow to the myometrium resulting in ischemia and extreme discomfort.

About PDC Biotech GmbH

PDC Biotech GmbH is a privately held Austrian biopharmaceutical development company focussed in women's health. The company moved to Austria in May 2008 following the securing of €1 million in seed funding from the Austria Wirtschaftsservice (the federal promotional bank of the Republic of Austria). The company was founded by two Canadian industry entrepreneurs, Diane Kalina and Patricia Griffin. PDC is developing a novel compound which targets the prostaglandin F_{2α}receptor for the treatment of preterm labour and primary dysmenorrhea. www.pdcbiotech.com

For more information, please contact

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