



EctoPharma signs 2 Licensing Deals

with the UK Medical Research Council
& The School of Pharmacy, University of London

Selkirk, 3rd December 2009. EctoPharma Ltd, the emerging pharmaceutical development company, today announces that it has entered into two separate licensing agreements with the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) and The School of Pharmacy, University of London. The deals enable EctoPharma to pursue its research work into the efficacy of a novel nano-technology in cancer treatment.

Medical Research Council

Under the terms of the agreement, EctoPharma has acquired the exclusive global rights to the MRC's intellectual property surrounding its ubiquitin ligase gene technology (known as "Itch") which regulates levels of the p73 protein in cancer cells. p73 plays a key role in increasing the sensitivity of cancer cells to chemotherapy. The agreement enables EctoPharma to carry out research into the efficacy of delivering the Itch gene direct to cancer cells via the novel Dendrimer polymer drug delivery technology (see below). EctoPharma will pay the MRC an undisclosed upfront payment whilst, further down the line, milestone payments will be payable subject to satisfactory progress being made through the R&D programme.

The School of Pharmacy, University of London

Under the terms of the agreement, EctoPharma has been granted access to the School's novel Dendrimer polymer drug delivery technology for specific use in the company's on-going research into the ubiquitin ligase gene (see above) and its chemotherapy promoting properties. Dendrimer polymers are at the leading edge of nano-technological applications in pharmaceuticals, offering the prospect of delivering genes direct to cancer cells without being first broken down in the metabolism. EctoPharma and The School of Pharmacy, University of London are working together on this research project.

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Commenting, EctoPharma CEO, **Alan Walker**, said: “These agreements mark a very important step forward in EctoPharma’s development of Ryboquin™. This is a product which combines the latest drug delivery nano-technology with two Nobel prize-winning gene technologies to offer the potential of significant improvements in chemotherapy effectiveness in the treatment of a variety of common cancers. The way is now open for us to accelerate the development programme of a product which could transform the lives of millions of cancer patients around the world. Early *in vitro* studies have shown that cancer cells are up to 400% more sensitive to chemotherapy when treated in this way. We aim to be conducting studies ‘in man’ during 2011.”

Bill Lindsay, Business Development Manager for The School of Pharmacy, University of London said: “We are pleased to announce this important collaboration through which we seek to develop Ryboquin™ as a next generation cancer therapeutic. We believe that the Dendrimer technology developed by our researchers represents a real step forward in the development of nucleic-acid based therapeutics by allowing their effective targeting to tumours.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

EctoPharma

Founded in the late 1990s in Scotland, EctoPharma is a privately held, virtual pharmaceutical search and development company focused on commercialising patented technologies in the areas of human and veterinary medicine. The company takes forward research and development into under-developed intellectual property ideas with the aim of producing new, effective medicines and therapies for which there is significant demand from patients and healthcare professionals around the world.

www.ectopharma.co.uk

Medical Research Council

For almost 100 years, the UK Medical Research Council has improved the health of people in the UK and around the world by supporting the highest quality science. The MRC invests in world class scientists. It has produced 29 Nobel prize winners and sustains a flourishing environment for internationally recognised research. The MRC focuses on making an impact and provides the financial muscle and scientific expertise behind medical breakthroughs, including the first antibiotic penicillin, the structure of DNA and the lethal link between smoking and cancer. Today, MRC funded scientists tackle research into the major health challenges of the 21st century.

www.mrc.ac.uk

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Medical Research Council Technology is the exclusive commercialisation agent for the MRC, working to translate cutting edge scientific discoveries into commercial products. MRCT bridges the gap between innovative basic science and making medicines. MRCT works to provide drug-like candidate molecules to innovative new drug targets and to translate innovative antibody-based drug targets into potent and selective therapeutic antibody candidates, giving pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies new starting points for drug discovery and development based on MRC advances in science.

www.mrctechonology.org

The School of Pharmacy, University of London

The School of Pharmacy, University of London is the only free-standing specialist school in the UK dedicated entirely to teaching and research in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, with world-class teaching and a top rated research quality profile. Its mission is to lead in education, research and policy development which benefits patients and healthcare practice, medicines discovery and development, and society.

www.pharmacy.ac.uk

Commercialisation of the School's research is performed by its subsidiary, Pharmovation Limited: www.pharmovation.com

Therapeutic background

- 25 million people worldwide have cancer (Source: Cancer Research UK)
- In over 50% of cases, cancerous cells do not respond to chemotherapy at some time in the treatment
- This is one of the great challenges today in the cancer field
- The majority of non-responsive chemotherapy patients will die within 5 years
- Ryboquin™ is a fusion of two Nobel prize winning technologies - Ubiquitin (Chemistry - 2004) and siRNA (Medicine - 2006) – resulting in a therapy which early *in vitro* studies have demonstrated to be effective in treating drug resistant cancers
- Ryboquin™ uses novel nano-technology to deliver agents with the potential to improve the receptiveness of cancer cells to chemotherapy

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3rd December 2009