



Abgenix And Immunex To Initiate Phase 2 Clinical Trial Of ABX-EGF In Kidney Cancer

FREMONT, CA and SEATTLE, WA - Abgenix, Inc. (Nasdaq: ABGX) and Immunex Corporation (Nasdaq: IMNX) announced today that the companies will start a Phase 2 clinical trial of ABX-EGF in patients with kidney cancer. The Phase 2 trial will assess the tolerability and efficacy of ABX-EGF as monotherapy (without concomitant chemotherapy) in patients with kidney cancer. ABX-EGF is being developed jointly by Abgenix and Immunex. Initiation of this study triggers a milestone payment from Immunex to Abgenix.

This multi-center, multiple-dose study will enroll up to 80 patients across North America. Patients will receive eight weekly intravenous infusions at varying doses of ABX-EGF. Preliminary results from an ongoing Phase 1 study support the dose-escalating Phase 2 study protocol in kidney cancer.

"We are happy to be moving forward with the first of several Phase 2 trials for ABX-EGF, our lead oncology antibody therapy in development," stated R. Scott Greer, chairman and chief executive officer of Abgenix. "In the coming months, Abgenix and Immunex will initiate a series of Phase 2 clinical trials to explore the tolerability and efficacy of ABX-EGF in additional cancer indications. Our hope is to provide effective, antibody-based therapeutic options for cancer patients."

"We are encouraged by the preliminary results we are seeing in the Phase 1 trial for ABX-EGF," said Douglas Williams, Ph.D., Immunex executive vice president and chief technology officer. "The potential ability of ABX-EGF to target the EGF receptor is an exciting approach in cancer research, making it a valuable addition to the Immunex arsenal of oncology molecules."

Preliminary results of an ongoing Phase 1 clinical trial of ABX-EGF will be presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting in May 2001.

About ABX-EGF

ABX-EGF is a fully human monoclonal antibody that targets the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFr), which is over-expressed on a variety of cancers including lung, breast, bladder, prostate, colorectal, kidney and head and neck cancer. It has been demonstrated that cancer cells can become dependent on growth signals mediated through the EGFr for their survival. In mouse models, ABX-EGF monotherapy has been shown to both eradicate established human tumors and block the growth of human tumors.

Overexpression of the EGFr has been reported to occur in 70-90% of kidney cancer tumors. In 2000, there were approximately 12,000 deaths associated with kidney cancer and approximately 31,000 new cases of kidney cancer in the United States. Renal cell carcinoma or kidney cancer is characterized by a lack of early warning signs, which results in a high proportion of patients being diagnosed with advanced disease. In cases where localized kidney tumors are detected at an early stage, surgery provides the only curative therapy. Metastatic kidney cancer is highly resistant to systemic therapies. Therapeutic options for patients with advanced kidney cancer are very limited.

"There is an unmet medical need for new treatment options for patients with kidney cancer," said said Robert Figlin, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Urology of the Johnsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at the UCLA School of Medicine. "ABX-EGF, as a fully human monoclonal antibody, represents a promising therapeutic approach to solid tumors, and I am encouraged by its potential application in kidney cancer."

Abgenix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of fully human monoclonal antibody therapies for a variety of diseases. The company's antibody technology platform, which includes XenoMouseT technology, enables the rapid generation and selection of high affinity, fully human antibody product candidates to essentially any disease target appropriate for antibody therapy. Abgenix leverages its leadership position in human antibody technology by building a large and diversified product portfolio through the establishment of licensing arrangements with multiple pharmaceutical, biotechnology and genomics companies and through the development of its own internal proprietary products. For more information on Abgenix, visit the company's website at www.abgenix.com.

Immunex Corporation is a leading biopharmaceutical company dedicated to improving lives through immune system science innovations.

Statements made in this press release about ABX-EGF clinical trials, Abgenix's XenoMouse technology, product development activities and collaborative arrangements other than statements of historical fact, are forward looking statements and are subject to a number of uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the statements made, including risks associated with the success of clinical trials, the progress of research and product development programs, the regulatory approval process, competitive products, future capital requirements and the extent and breadth of Abgenix's patent portfolio. Please see Abgenix's public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for information about risks that may affect Abgenix.

NOTE: Except for the historical information contained herein, this news release contains forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. Among the factors that could cause actual results or timelines to differ materially are risks associated with research and clinical development, regulatory approvals, our supply capabilities and reliance on third-party manufacturers, product commercialization, competition, litigation and other risk factors listed from time to time in reports filed by Immunex with the SEC, including but not limited to risks described under the caption "Important Factors That May Affect Our Business, Our Results of Operations and Our Stock Price" within our most recently filed Form 10-K. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release represent our judgment as of the date of this release. Immunex undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements.

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