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Preliminary Phase 2 Data Suggest ABX-EGF Has Single-Agent Anti-Tumor Activity in Advanced Kidney Cancer

FREMONT, CA and SEATTLE, WA (May 21, 2002) - Abgenix, Inc. (NASDAQ: ABGX) and Immunex Corporation (NASDAQ: IMNX) today announced preliminary results from a Phase 2 study of ABX-EGF, a fully human monoclonal antibody, which suggest anti-tumor activity as a single-agent treatment for patients with advanced kidney cancer. Results from the multi-center, open-label study were presented today at the 38th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in Orlando, Florida.

"These preliminary Phase 2 results are very encouraging and suggest that ABX-EGF is a promising single-agent therapeutic approach to solid tumors," said Eric Rowinsky, M.D., Director of Clinical Research at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center, Institute for Drug Development, and Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas. "As there is no evidence of spontaneous remissions in patients who have previously failed interleukin-2 (IL-2) treatment, the observed response rate provides support for activity of ABX-EGF in this disease that may bode well for the longer term benefit from the drug."

Patients in the ongoing, multiple-dose study had previously failed or were unable to receive treatment with either IL-2 or interferon and received 8 weekly infusions of ABX-EGF. This is the first clinical trial to evaluate an EGF receptor pathway antagonist in renal cell cancer patients that are refractory to IL-2 or interferon, the standard first-line treatment for kidney cancer patients. The study evaluated four dose levels of ABX-EGF (1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5 mg/kg) in approximately 20 patients per dose. The primary efficacy endpoint of the study is the response rate measured at the end of an 8-week cycle. A secondary efficacy endpoint is the time to tumor progression, for which the companies plan to have data available in greater detail in the first quarter of 2003.

The following observations were presented at the ASCO meeting:

- Preliminary data showed 3 partial responses and 2 minor responses, indicating biological activity in these patients. As of the eighth week of treatment, stable disease was achieved in 44 (50%) of the 88 patients treated, of whom 78 (89%) had failed prior therapy.
- This Phase 2 study also demonstrated a low pharmacokinetic variability consistent with that shown from an ongoing ABX-EGF Phase 1 study that was reported yesterday.
- ABX-EGF has been generally well tolerated at all dose levels studied.
- No antibody formation to ABX-EGF was detected in any patient receiving this molecule.
- No allergic reactions, infusion-related reactions or anaphylaxis were observed in any patient receiving ABX-EGF.
- 100% incidence of skin rash was observed at an ABX-EGF dose of 2.5 mg/kg.

"We are encouraged by the biological activity of ABX-EGF in this patient group with advanced kidney cancer for whom there is no standard therapy available," said Gisela Schwab, M.D., chief medical officer of Abgenix. "The next step is to analyze the time to progression data in the first quarter of next year."

"The Phase 1 and Phase 2 data presented at ASCO indicate a consistent pharmacokinetic and tolerability profile that provides a solid basis for additional studies of the efficacy of ABX-EGF," said Richard Stead, M.D., Immunex vice president of clinical development.

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. ABX-EGF is being co-developed by Abgenix, Inc. and Immunex Corp. and is currently being evaluated in a comprehensive Phase 2 program in several indications including kidney, non-small cell lung, colorectal and prostate cancer.

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.

Abgenix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of human therapeutic antibodies. The company's technology platform, which includes XenoMouse® and XenoMax™ technologies, enables the rapid generation and selection of high affinity, fully human antibody product candidates to a variety of disease targets. Abgenix leverages its leadership position in human antibody technology by building a diversified product portfolio through the development of its own internal proprietary products and through the establishment of licensing arrangements with multiple pharmaceutical, biotechnology and genomics companies. 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, supply capabilities and reliance on third-party manufacturers, product commercialization, competition, litigation and (a) the other risk factors listed from time to time in reports filed by Immunex with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including but not limited to risks described under the caption "Important Factors That May Affect Our Business, Our Results of Operation and Our Stock Price" within its most recently filed Form 10-K. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release represent judgments of the management of Immunex as of the date of this release. Immunex undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements.

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