

Press release



ARPIDA PRESENTS ADDITIONAL CLINICAL EVIDENCE OF GOOD BIOAVAILABILITY OF ORAL ICLAPRIM

Muenchenstein / Basel, Switzerland, 13 February 2006. Arpida Ltd (SWX: ARPN) today announced that it has successfully completed a Phase I clinical trial with oral iclaprim in a capsule formulation. The primary objective of this study was to assess the bioavailability of iclaprim from an oral capsule formulation as compared to the intravenous formulation.

In this Phase I trial, eight healthy volunteers received one dose of oral iclaprim and one dose of intravenous iclaprim for comparative purposes. The results show an oral bioavailability of iclaprim from the capsule of around 40% and confirm that oral administration of iclaprim can easily achieve blood levels comparable with those of therapeutic doses of intravenous iclaprim. The study further demonstrates that iclaprim is well tolerated, with no serious adverse effects observed. These results confirm those of a study investigating the solution formulation of oral iclaprim, published January 25, 2006.

Arpida has now successfully completed three Phase I trials with oral formulations of iclaprim: an ADME study (absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion) with radiolabelled iclaprim, a bioavailability study with a solution and one with a capsule formulation.

A further trial to determine the maximum tolerated dose of oral iclaprim is currently on-going. Additional Phase I trials are planned during the year and are expected to provide the foundation for later-stage clinical trials.

The intravenous formulation of iclaprim is currently in Phase III trials for the treatment of complicated skin and skin structure infections (cSSSI).

“This is the third Phase I trial with oral iclaprim that shows good safety and bioavailability of the compound. Moreover, these studies indicate that oral administration of iclaprim can achieve an exposure comparable to the dose that is used in the on-going Phase III trial with intravenous iclaprim,” commented Dr Khalid Islam, President and CEO of Arpida Ltd. “We strongly believe that the availability of an oral formulation will be one of the key differentiating features of iclaprim over virtually all of the antibiotics for the treatment of bacterial infections including MRSA. Iclaprim can be offered not only as an intravenous therapy for hospital use in acute situations, but also as an oral formulation, allowing earlier discharge from hospital and out-patient treatment. This switch should be a valuable instrument in reducing healthcare costs and enhancing patient comfort”.

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About Arpida Ltd.

Arpida (SWX: ARPN) is a biopharmaceutical company with research facilities near Basel, Switzerland and in Copenhagen, Denmark. It focuses on the discovery and development of novel antibiotic drugs that seek to overcome the growing problem of bacterial resistance. Arpida uses an integrated multidisciplinary platform including genomics-assisted selection of novel antibacterial targets to develop its portfolio of potential drug candidates. The company currently employs 85 people.

Arpida's leading product candidate is intravenous iclaprim, a broad-spectrum antibiotic that targets severe infections requiring hospital treatment, including those caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Arpida is currently conducting global Phase III trials with intravenous iclaprim for the treatment of cSSSI (complicated skin and skin structure infections). The US Food and Drug Administration has granted fast track status to intravenous iclaprim for the treatment of cSSSI.

An oral formulation of iclaprim has successfully completed three Phase I trials: a radiolabelled ADME study (absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion), a Phase I bioavailability trial with a solution and one with a capsule formulation. Oral iclaprim could offer significant benefits as a switch from intravenous to oral administration, enabling patients to be discharged from hospitals earlier by allowing them to continue and complete their treatment at home. This switch potentially lowers healthcare costs while at the same time reducing the probability of the patient contracting new infections.

Arpida's third most advanced programme, AR-709, targets upper and lower respiratory tract infections in the community setting. AR-709 is in late pre-clinical development. In addition, the company has a further 12 pre-clinical antibiotic programmes derived from its own discovery platform, which are at various stages of development.

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