

Press Release

Heidelberg, March 12, 2007:

BMBF Grants 1.5m Euro to Further Evaluate the Therapeutic Potential of Apogenix' Lead Product APG101

Heidelberg, March 12, 2007 - Apogenix GmbH, a biopharmaceutical company developing novel drugs based on the targeted modulation of apoptosis (programmed cell death), today announced that it has been granted 0.9 million Euro in research funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The research grant is part of the ministry's program to support „Innovative Molecular and Cellular-Based Therapies“.

The funds will be used to study Apogenix' lead candidate APG101 for the treatment of spinal cord injuries. The research will be carried out in collaboration with Dr Ana Martin-Villalba, head of the junior group "Molecular Neurobiology" at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and also a scientific advisor to Apogenix. For this project, Martin-Villalba's group has been granted an additional 0.6 million Euro funding under the program. Apogenix receives exclusive commercial rights to the outcome of this research collaboration.

"We are delighted that the research program with our lead candidate APG101 in spinal cord injuries will be supported by a total of 1.5 million Euro in federal research grants," said Dr Thomas Höger, CEO/CFO of Apogenix. "APG101 is already being developed for the prevention of acute Graft-versus-Host Disease (aGvHD), an indication for which Apogenix has been awarded orphan drug status in the EU last year. We are planning to initiate first clinical trials in early 2008."

"The excessive cell death observed in both spinal cord injuries and aGvHD is mediated by CD95, a receptor molecule located on the surface of many human cells," said Dr Martin-Villalba. "It was shown by us and other research groups that inhibition of CD95-mediated apoptosis prevents the death of healthy cells in a variety of animal disease models. This therapeutic mechanism of action possesses a huge potential to address also cerebro- and cardiovascular diseases, such as myocardial infarction or stroke."

About APG101

APG101 is a recombinant fusion protein consisting of the extracellular part of the CD95-receptor (CD95) and an IgG molecule. The molecule inhibits apoptosis by blocking the interaction between the CD95-ligand and the CD95-receptor on human cells. APG101 is currently in advanced preclinical development and has shown a dose-dependent efficacy in a variety of animal models for acute Graft-versus-Host Disease and other indications, such as myocardial infarction (heart attack) and stroke. Last year, Apogenix received orphan drug status for APG101 for the prevention of Graft-versus-Host Disease in the European Union.

About Apogenix

Apogenix is a biopharmaceutical company developing novel drugs based on the targeted modulation of apoptosis (programmed cell death).

Apoptosis is a natural and highly controlled mechanism to clear the body of old, damaged or abnormally transformed cells. In many disease indications, this process has become out of balance causing either an uncontrolled removal of healthy cells and tissue (e. g. acute Graft-versus-Host Disease, stroke and spinal cord injuries) or a lack of removal of damaged and abnormal cells (e.g. in case of tumors).

Apogenix is a spin-out from the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), and is based in Heidelberg, Germany. In 2005, the company has received 15 million Euro in a Series A round from the family of the renowned biotech investor and SAP co-founder Dietmar Hopp.

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