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Chicago, Illinois, 30th May 2014

Acelarin achieves high disease control rate in patients with advanced cancer

ProGem1 study results presented at the ASCO 50th Annual Meeting

NuCana today presented impressive clinical data for their first-in-class anti-cancer agent, Acelarin at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting in Chicago. Patients with advanced, solid tumours relapsed or refractory to standard therapies were treated with Acelarin in a Phase I/II study (ProGem1) and an 88% disease control rate was achieved. The study has reached its primary objective, having established the recommended Phase II dose (RP2D) with a favourable safety profile.

The very positive clinical results with Acelarin were selected for oral discussion at ASCO's Poster Highlight Session. Of the twenty five evaluable patients that received two or more cycles of Acelarin, 20% achieved a Partial Response and 68% Stable Disease. This equates to an 88% disease control rate, which in the majority of cases was durable.

Acelarin is the first of a new class of agents in cancer, ProTides. These medicines are specifically designed to bypass the key resistance mechanisms that block the action of nucleoside analogues, which are widely used in cancer therapy.

Dr Sarah Blagden, the Chief Investigator of the ProGem1 study commented *"The patient outcomes achieved with this new anti-cancer agent are very encouraging, especially in this early clinical setting and in a broad range of solid tumours".*

In addition to the high disease control rate, Acelarin was well tolerated, with no unexpected adverse events (AEs). The most common AEs Grade 1 or 2 were anaemia; fatigue; transaminitis and thrombocytopaenia. Two dose limiting toxicities were observed, Grade 3 ALT and Grade 4 thrombocytopaenia.

The key to the successful clinical outcomes with Acelarin is found in its pharmacokinetic profile. Acelarin generates over 12 times higher intracellular levels of the active nucleotide analogue, dFdCTP compared with gemcitabine, and rapidly reached its C^{max}, 30 minutes from end of infusion.

Hugh S. Griffith, NuCana's CEO, said: *"Acelarin is clearly a very active anti-cancer agent achieving durable responses even in heavily pre-treated patients with refractory or relapsed disease. We are determined to ensure that as many patients as possible have the opportunity to benefit from this new advance".*

The ProGem1 study has completed its primary objective and has now entered an expansion stage at the RP2D to further assess the efficacy and safety profile of Acelarin in selected tumour types. Registration studies are being planned for pancreatic, biliary, ovarian and non-small cell lung cancers.

About NuCana

NuCana is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing and commercialising a range of exciting, new anti-cancer medicines. With its next generation of anti-cancer agents (nucleotide analogues), NuCana is setting new benchmarks for innovative therapeutic treatments. The state-of-the-art ProTide technology transforms existing therapies into better and safer medicines that overcome key cancer resistance mechanisms.
For more information, please visit: www.nucana.com

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About ProTides

The distinctive feature of a ProTide is the ability to bypass the key cancer cell resistance pathways and generate high levels of the active agents inside the cancer cells. The fundamental aspect of the ProTide technology platform is the addition of a phosphoramidate moiety onto a nucleoside analogue scaffold. The ProTide approach was invented by Professor Chris McGuigan of Cardiff University. NuCana support a team of medicinal chemists, under the leadership of Professor McGuigan, dedicated to the design and selection of additional ProTides for NuCana's portfolio. NuCana's vision is to replace all commonly used nucleoside analogue-based cancer treatments with more active and safer ProTides.

Contacts

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