



Company announcement

“New and improved” ATC listed as an important option for the “forgotten group of people” with drug-resistant HIV

Tuesday 16th December 2014

Melbourne, Australia: Australian biotechnology company Avexa Limited [ASX:AVX] today announced that the company’s drug candidate Apricitabine (ATC) – for the treatment of drug-resistant HIV – has been listed in *HIV Plus* magazine as an important option for HIV sufferers who have no alternative treatments.

This announcement follows the story in the October issue of American AIDS magazine *A&U* which listed ATC as one of the world’s most promising new therapies for the treatment of HIV.

Medical writer Jeannie Wraight writes in *HIV Plus* magazine that World Aids Day on December 1 highlighted that up to 17% of HIV-positive people need an HIV drug which is still not approved.

She says these people are the “forgotten group of people with HIV (who) are in dire need of advocacy to secure viable drug treatment options.”

“As HIV-positive people are living longer and with longer, increasingly complex treatment histories, as well as the rise of transmitted drug resistance, an increasing number of people are running out of options for a drug regimen capable of suppressing their virus,” she writes. “They are in dire need of advocacy to secure viable drug treatment options.”

Wraight says that new and easy-to-take fixed drug combinations (FDCs) have made treating and living with HIV substantially more convenient. She says four FDCs already approved by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) – Complera[®], Atripla[®], Stribild[®] and Triumeq[®] – and several more in the pipeline has made choosing an HIV regimen much simpler. However, a significant number of people living with HIV are unable to use many of these drugs due to drug resistance.

Wraight says these individuals are in desperate need of salvage therapy options.

“Apricitabine (ATC) is a phase III NRTI (nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor) for drug resistant treatment-experienced patients, which would help allow for the construction of salvage therapy regimens for those with few or no treatment options,” she writes. “Unfortunately, ATC has lingered in Phase III for several years and community support is needed to help assure the commencement of the final clinical trial (registration study) needed for FDA approval.”

Wraight says that ATC is the nearest NRTI in clinical development to FDA approval for treatment-experienced drug resistant patients.

Dr Jonathan Coates, Avexa’s CSO and Interim CEO, said that Avexa was pleased with the increasing amount of recognition that ATC is receiving in the AIDS community as a legitimate and powerful weapon in the fight against drug-resistant HIV. “We are confident that ATC will be a key drug in the ongoing and important fight against HIV. Together with our partner LINK Healthcare, ATC is being made available to needy patients through the Early Access Scheme.”

About Avexa Limited

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Avexa Limited is a Melbourne-based biotechnology company with a focus on discovery, development and commercialization of small molecules for the treatment of infectious diseases. Avexa's key projects include Apricitabine (ATC) for the treatment of drug-resistant HIV, an HIV integrase program and an antibiotic program for antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections.

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