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Final Preparations for ATL1103 Clinical Trial

Antisense Therapeutics Limited (ANP) is pleased to advise that final preparations are being made for the first human trial of ATL1103, the Company's drug that is designed to block growth hormone receptor expression.

ATL1103 is being developed by Antisense Therapeutics as a potential treatment for particular growth and sight disorders as well as some forms of cancer.

Following the manufacture of sufficient supplies of the drug compound by ANP's technology partner, Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc., ANP has now commenced formulation of this raw material into injectible product to be used in the clinical trial. This drug product formulation work should be completed in April 2011.

ANP will then make an application under the Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) scheme to conduct the clinical trial with a planned trial commencement Q3 2011. The trial will be undertaken by an experienced Clinical Research Organisation (CRO) at a clinical trial unit in Australia. The first stage of the trial to demonstrate the safety and tolerability of ATL1103 in healthy volunteers is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

Antisense Therapeutics CEO and Managing Director, Mark Diamond added "We are very excited to be moving toward the first clinical trial of ATL1103 following the successful pre-clinical pharmacology and toxicology stages of its development. ATL1103 has a number of potential disease applications where we believe this second generation antisense drug should have significant competitive advantages over existing treatments."

Background Information

ATL1103 is a second generation antisense drug designed to block growth hormone receptor (GHR) expression thereby reducing levels of the hormone insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-I) in the blood and is a potential treatment for diseases associated with excessive growth hormone and IGF-I action. These diseases include acromegaly, an abnormal growth disorder of organs, face, hands and feet, diabetic retinopathy, a common disease of the eye and a major cause of blindness, diabetic nephropathy and some forms of cancer. Acromegalic patients are known to have significantly higher blood IGF-I levels than healthy individuals. Reduction of these levels to normal is accepted by clinical authorities as the primary marker of an effective drug treatment for the disease. GHR is a clinically validated target in the treatment of acromegaly. In the case of diabetic retinopathy, published clinical studies have shown that treatments producing a reduction in IGF-I levels retarded the progression of the disease and improve vision in patients. ANP have published scientific papers demonstrating suppression of blood IGF-I levels in the mouse and inhibition of retinopathy in a mouse retinopathy model using an antisense drug to the GHR (Wilkinson-Berka et al., 2007, Molecular Vision 13, 1529- 38; Tachas et al., 2006, J Endocrinol 189, 147-54) and ANP have previously reported that ATL1103 injection suppressed circulating levels of IGF-I in primates and that toxicology studies have been completed supporting the Company's plans to move ATL1103 into clinical development. ATL1103 commercialisation is covered by patent applications to at least 2024, and the potential for extensions to 2029 in some countries and 2030 in the US.

Antisense Therapeutics Limited (ASX: ANP) is an Australian publicly listed biopharmaceutical drug discovery and development company. Its mission is to create, develop and commercialise antisense pharmaceuticals for large unmet markets. ANP has two drugs in development and two drugs in pre-clinical research. ATL1102 (injection) has successfully completed a Phase II efficacy and safety trial, significantly reducing the number of MRI lesions in patients with multiple sclerosis. ATL1103 is a second-generation antisense drug designed to block GHR production and thereby lower blood IGF-I levels and is entering the clinical stage of development as a potential treatment for growth and vision disorders. ATL1102 (inhaled) is at the pre-clinical research stage as a potential treatment for asthma. ATL1101 is a second-generation antisense drug at the pre-clinical stage being investigated as a potential treatment for prostate cancer.

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