

Xanthus Presents Novel Approach for  
Autoimmune Disease Reversal with Symadex

- Preclinical Results Presented at the 59th American Academy of  
Neurology Annual Meeting -

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.--May 3, 2007--Xanthus Pharmaceuticals, Inc today presented data demonstrating that Symadex(TM) reversed the clinical and pathological signs of chronic disease in an animal model for multiple sclerosis. The presentation was made by Stephen J. Karlik, Ph.D., Professor of Diagnostic Radiology at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, together with researchers from Xanthus in a poster session at the 59th American Academy of Neurology Meeting in Boston, MA.

Using a model of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) that is designed to represent multiple sclerosis, Dr. Karlik tested Symadex for its effect on both acute and chronic disease. In the acute EAE model, animals treated with Symadex substantially recovered while in control animals the disease symptoms and damage remained unchanged. In chronic EAE disease models, clinical and pathological disease reversal and tissue recovery were observed with Symadex treatment. At the same time, Symadex did not affect circulating immune cell numbers, suggesting that it does not act as a general immunosuppressant.

"Symadex' ability to reverse chronic autoimmune disease in this animal model is notable. The study results suggest this activity may result from inhibiting macrophage function rather than inhibiting T cell function. This mechanism is novel in my experience," said Dr. Karlik.

"We now have a significant body of promising preclinical data supporting the use of Symadex in multiple autoimmune indications. We believe this represents a strong partnering opportunity for our Company, and we are preparing to initiate a human proof-of-principle trial with Symadex in autoimmune disease," stated Richard T. Dean, Ph.D., Xanthus' Chief Executive Officer.

About Symadex(TM)

Symadex (formerly C-1311) is the lead compound from a new series of agents, the imidazoacridinones, which have been shown to be potent and selective FLT3 receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors in vitro. Symadex is currently in Phase 2 clinical trials in oncology indications. Xanthus is also exploring the use of Symadex for the treatment of a number of autoimmune diseases, where early preclinical data has shown encouraging signs of activity.

About Xanthus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Xanthus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is developing a portfolio of novel, clinical-stage, small-molecule therapeutic candidates through a management team whose accomplished track record encompasses all aspects of drug development, from discovery through regulatory approval and commercialization. The Company is applying its expertise to advance its current pipeline to address significant unmet medical need in oncology and autoimmune diseases.

Xanthus is headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts with an additional facility in Montreal, Quebec. More information is available at [www.xanthus.com](http://www.xanthus.com).

This press release contains forward-looking statements concerning Xanthus that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. For this purpose, any statements contained herein that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Without limiting the foregoing, the words, "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "expects," "estimates," "intends," "should," "could," "will," "may," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. There are a number of important factors that could cause Xanthus' actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements, including risks as to whether results obtained in early clinical studies or in preclinical studies such as the studies referred to above will be indicative of results obtained in future clinical trials or warrant additional trials; whether products based on Xanthus' technology will advance through the clinical trial process and receive approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration or equivalent foreign regulatory agencies; whether the company will have the cash resources to develop and commercialize its products; and whether the patent and patent applications owned or licensed by Xanthus will protect the Company's technology and prevent others from infringing it. Xanthus disclaims any intention or obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

CONTACT: MacDougall Biomedical Communications, Inc.  
Kari Watson, 508-647-0209  
kwatson@macbiocom.com  
or  
Xanthus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Lisa Terry, 617-225-0522, x 105  
lisa.terry@xanthus.com