

Xanthus Commences Phase I/II Clinical Trial for Xanafide Amonafide in Patients With Prostate Cancer

-- Study Aims to Validate Safety and Anti-tumor Response using Individualized Dosing Regimens Based on Prediction of Metabolic Phenotype --

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 25 /PRNewswire/ -- Xanthus Life Sciences today announced that it has initiated a Phase I/II study of its lead oncology drug candidate, Xanafide(TM) (amonafide) in patients with metastatic prostate cancer. The study aims to define and validate the safety of a phenotypically driven dosing regimen using a biologically predictive test for drug metabolism to determine an individual's dosing needs for Xanafide. In addition, the study aims to evaluate the efficacy of Xanafide as determined by various measures of PSA response and tumor response. Dr. Mario Eisenberger, Professor of Oncology and Urology at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, is Principal Investigator for the study.

"Prostate cancer represents a prime opportunity for Xanthus to apply its phenotypically driven individualized dosing to determine the safety and response rate for Xanafide in a patient population that needs new, effective chemotherapeutic treatment options," stated Richard T. Dean, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Xanthus.

About the Study

The Phase I/II trial is an open-label, multi-center study of Xanafide in approximately 40 subjects with hormone refractory metastatic prostate cancer who may have had zero or one prior course of chemotherapy. The patient's initial dose will be determined by their metabolic phenotype as determined by Xanthus' proprietary testing approach. Intravenous infusions will be administered weekly three weeks out of four for approximately five months. The primary objective of the study is to determine the safety of Xanafide using the Company's approach to individualized dose adjustment. Xanthus will also evaluate the efficacy of Xanafide in this patient population.

Xanthus' Individualized Dosing Solution to Xanafide(TM)

Xanthus is using its metabolic phenotyping predictor technology to enable individualized dosing of Xanafide intended to optimize therapeutic outcome. Xanthus' technology provides a direct measurement of metabolic enzyme activity under conditions that mimic drug exposure. The Company believes that this individual assessment of patient metabolic status and individualized dosing can maximize antitumor response while minimizing adverse outcomes from excessive myelosuppression.

About Xanafide(TM)

Xanthus utilized its expertise in chemistry to develop a new salt form of the anticancer compound, amonafide, originally developed at Knoll Pharmaceuticals. The Company expects that the new salt form, Xanafide, will

have advantages in terms of manufacturing yield, and solubility, and bioavailability in oral formulations. The original formulation of Xanafide, amonafide, has been administered to over 1000 patients in clinical development. Apart from the variability of myelosuppression observed in those patients, amonafide demonstrated a superior safety profile in comparison to other cytotoxics.

About Xanthus

Xanthus is an oncology drug development company. By incorporating proprietary technology to predict the optimal dose for each patient, the Company creates unique, patentable drugs with improved clinical benefits. Xanthus believes its Individualized Dosing approach can improve the development process for many new and existing cancer therapeutics. The Company's technology and products aim to address the need for a more personalized approach to cancer treatment while providing benefits to a broader population of patients.

Xanthus is headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts with an additional facility in Montreal, Quebec. The Company has three oncology products in its development pipeline for multiple cancer indications. More information is available at <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 trials referred to in this release will be indicative of results obtained in future preclinical studies or clinical 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; 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

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