

Xanthus Receives Patent on Technology to Measure Gastric Emptying

- Simplified Procedure May Facilitate Development and Rescue for Oral Drugs -

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Aug. 3 /PRNewswire/ -- Xanthus Life Sciences today announced that it has received U.S. Patent No. 6,740,305, covering methods for measuring an individual's gastric emptying rate. A person's gastric emptying rate directly relates to how quickly or slowly they are able to absorb an oral therapeutic into the blood stream.

"The gastric emptying phenotype is relevant to all oral drugs, but especially those which must be rapidly delivered. The normal phenotype of emptying times can vary between 45 and 130 minutes without evidence of pathology, and may be a critical determining factor in drug absorption and subsequent exposure if too fast or too slow," said Alfred M. Ajami, Chief Scientific Officer at Xanthus. "Using this technology to measure gastric emptying may help drug developers identify patients whose gastric motility is either too fast or too slow from the norm for maximally effective oral therapy. This ability to measure gastric emptying would therefore enable smaller, more efficient clinical trials with reduced potential for error and risk. And importantly, the technology is non-invasive and does not involve radioactive probes or radiological procedures."

"The issuance of this patent for technology to determine gastric emptying rates, underscores the broad opportunities for Xanthus to apply its individualized dosing approach," said Richard T. Dean, Ph.D., CEO of Xanthus.

"Delayed drug absorption due to altered gastric emptying can result in therapeutic failure, especially if the drug has a short biological half-life. We believe that the practical application of this technology may aid Xanthus' potential licensees in the clinical development of new drugs as well as the potential repurposing of oral therapeutics," added Michael A. Boss, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer of Xanthus.

About Xanthus' Technology for Gastric Emptying

The residence time of a drug in the stomach and the rate at which the stomach empties into the small intestine are significant contributors to bioavailability, and thus can be limiting factors for drugs whose efficacy depends on rapid delivery to the blood stream. Xanthus' proprietary technology detects the levels of a non-radiolabeled form of CO₂ in a breath sample as a carbon containing substrate is digested by measuring the rate at which the labeled nutrients are absorbed in the small intestine and metabolized into labeled CO₂. Xanthus' approach is designed to allow the mechanical aspects of drug absorption to be evaluated independently from other contributing factors to variability among individuals in drug exposure from oral doses. Therefore the Company believes that the technology may provide a phenotypic basis for developing and adjusting dosing regimens.

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 preclinical studies and early clinical studies will be indicative of results obtained in future 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; 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 such as the patent referred to above 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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