

## **Xanthus Presents In Vitro Data Demonstrating that Symadex Is a Potent and Selective Inhibitor of FLT3**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Sept. 14 /PRNewswire/ -- Xanthus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a privately-held oncology drug development company, today presented data from a study in which Symadex(TM) (C-1311) was identified as a potent, selective inhibitor of the receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK), FLT3. The presentation was made in a poster session at the 2006 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) International Conference on Molecular Diagnostics in Cancer Therapeutic Development meeting in Chicago, IL.

Researchers from Xanthus and the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, found that at low nanomolar concentrations, Symadex was a potent inhibitor of FLT3 and that it was generally more selective for this target as compared to other RTK inhibitory compounds that were tested.

"The findings reported today are of benefit to our development of Symadex for the treatment of cancer and auto-immune diseases, respectively," stated Robert L. Capizzi, M.D., Chief Medical Officer at Xanthus. "FLT3 inhibition immediately fits into our focus on the development of new therapies for Acute Myeloid Leukemia and our laboratory efforts have shown that Symadex has potential for the treatment of several autoimmune diseases. We intend to pursue both of these areas."

Dr. Capizzi continued, "Our science team has used Symadex as a platform molecule from which other novel imidazoacridinones have been synthesized and tested. This has created a unique portfolio with several potential candidates that dissociate cytotoxicity from immunomodulation."

### **About Symadex(TM)**

Symadex (formerly C-1311) is the lead compound in clinical development from a new series of agents, the imidazoacridinones, which have shown in vitro to be potent and selective FLT3 receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors. Symadex is currently in Phase 2 clinical trials in oncology. Xanthus is also exploring the use of Symadex for the treatment of a number of autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis, where early preclinical data has shown encouraging signs of activity. Xanthus licensed intellectual property related to Symadex from BTG International, Ltd.

### **About Xanthus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

Xanthus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is developing a portfolio of novel, clinical-stage, small-molecule oncology 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 both to advance its current pipeline and expand it into indications of unmet medical need beyond oncology.

Xanthus is headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts with an additional facility in Montreal, Quebec. 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 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.

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