



Press Release

SuppreMol receives public research funding for its lead project SM101

Martinsried/Munich, Germany, September 7, 2009 -- SuppreMol GmbH, a privately held biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutics for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, today announced it has been awarded research funding from the federal program "KMU-Innovativ" by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The grant covers an R&D program of EUR 1 million to explore the therapeutic potential of SM101 in previously unaddressed indications and to develop novel diagnostic tools to stratify patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

At present, SuppreMol's lead candidate SM101 is being developed for the treatment of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), an autoimmune disease characterized by a low count of thrombocytes. A Phase I trial in about 42 male volunteers to assess the safety and tolerability of intravenously administered SM101 is ongoing, with final results expected in early 2010. In parallel, the company has filed for a Phase Ib/IIa trial in ITP which is scheduled to start by the end of 2009.

The grant will enable SuppreMol to explore additional formulations of SM101 for subcutaneous and pulmonal administration as well as novel indications, e. g. Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE pulmonitis). This research is performed in close collaboration with the Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmaceutics of the University of Munich.

A second project covered by the grant focuses on the development and evaluation of a new assay for the stratification of B-cell dependent Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patients. This diagnostic tool could help to significantly reduce treatment costs in MS. The project is a collaboration between SuppreMol and the Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology in Munich.

"We are very pleased about the funding," commented Peter Buckel, CEO of SuppreMol. "It will enable us to develop new marketing opportunities for SM101, e. g. in novel indications and by alleviating the administration of SM101 so that it can be applied by general practitioners or the patients themselves. In addition it will help us to

develop a diagnostic tool to identify patients with Multiple Sclerosis who might be eligible for treatment with SM101."

"SM101 is addressing a very general mechanism involved in the onset of most autoimmune diseases," said Peter Sondermann, CSO of SuppreMol. "Rather than blocking the entire immune system, SM101 suppresses the specific antibody-dependent part of the immune response only, which we expect to lead to a lasting decrease of the level of pathogenic antibodies in the patient. Therefore, the compound has a huge potential for a broad range of autoimmune diseases."

In 2007, the European Commission granted orphan medicinal product designation for SM101 for the treatment of ITP.

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Notes to Editors

About SM101

SuppreMol's lead product SM101 is a recombinant, soluble, non-glycosylated version of the Fc-receptor FcγRIIb. It binds to autoantibody/autoantigen complexes and blocks the triggering of Fc-receptors on the surface of immune cells. As a result, the immune response is downregulated and the activation of the inflammation cascade typically seen in autoimmune diseases is prevented.

SM101 targets autoimmune disease specific B cells. Non-target B-cells (i.e., B-cells participating in regular immune reactions) are not affected, so that possible side-effects such as increased susceptibility to infections are not expected.

SM101 has been validated in relevant animal models and has shown strong efficacy in terms of decrease in inflammation and immune reaction.

About SuppreMol

SuppreMol is a privately held biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutics for the treatment of autoimmune diseases. The Company is pioneering the development of soluble Fcγ-Receptors (sFcRs), which are recombinant autologous therapeutic proteins with a proven strong immunosuppressive potential. The Company plans to develop sFcRs for the treatment of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Rheumatoid Arthritis and other autoimmune conditions.

SuppreMol was founded in 2002 as a spin-off from the laboratory of Prof. Dr Robert Huber, Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1988, at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany. The Company has raised EUR 19.7 million in two financing rounds since May 2006 and received a grant for “Innovative Therapeutics” from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in March 2007, covering a project volume of EUR 4.2 million.

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