



Newron reports positive Phase II safety and tolerability results for HF0220 in Alzheimer's disease

Milan, Italy – October 23, 2008 - Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A. ("Newron"), a research and development company focused on novel CNS and pain therapies, today announced the results of its recently completed Phase II safety and tolerability study with HF0220 in patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease (AD).

This 28 day, multinational, randomized, double blind, placebo controlled pilot study was performed in 42 patients in 10 centres in the UK, Sweden and India. HF0220 (n= 29) was administered at doses ranging from 1 to 220 mg per day versus placebo (n=13). Patients were allowed to continue their current Alzheimer's disease medication.

The data from the titration period were overseen by an independent Data Safety Monitoring Board.

The safety analysis of the data indicated that HF0220 in the dose range indicated was very well tolerated and could not be differentiated from placebo.

The very high rate of completion of the study by patients, the absence of clinically relevant or statistically significant changes in safety measures, and the very low number of patients experiencing any adverse events, indicate that HF0220 can be safely administered to patients with Alzheimer's disease who often experience multiple concomitant illnesses and who are more susceptible to the side-effects of their usual medications.

Ravi Anand, Newron's Chief Medical Officer, commented: "These positive results will allow us to take the first step in the systematic development of HF0220. Based on its unique neuroprotective and anti-inflammatory Mechanism of Action and safety profile in AD patients, HF0220 may have synergistic effects in combination with currently marketed anti-dementia drugs."

About HF0220

HF0220 was shown to possess a broad spectrum protective effect against cell death in vitro at very low (nanomolar) concentrations and to be effective in vivo in models of degenerative diseases such as stroke, Alzheimer's disease and myocardial infarct.

About Newron Pharmaceuticals

Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A. (www.newron.com) is a biopharmaceutical company focused on novel therapies for diseases of the Central Nervous System and pain. Newron is undertaking phase III trials with safinamide for the treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD) in conjunction with its partner, Merck Serono, which has exclusive worldwide rights to develop, manufacture and commercialize the compound in PD, Alzheimer's disease, and other therapeutic applications. Newron recently reported excellent results for its compound ralfinamide in patients with Nerve Compression and Entrapment conditions, of which neuropathic low back pain (NLBP) represents the most common indication. There are no approved drugs for the treatment of NLBP. The Company expects to commence a phase IIb/III in NLBP later in 2008.

In May 2008, Newron acquired Hunter-Fleming, a private UK bio-pharmaceutical company developing new medicines to treat neurodegenerative and inflammatory disorders. Newron is headquartered in Bresso, near Milan, Italy. The company is listed at SIX Swiss Exchange, trading symbol NWRN.

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