

Media Release

Positive final Phase I results for Pevion Biotech's malaria vaccine

Pevion Biotech announced today that two components of its prophylactic malaria vaccine PEV3A successfully finished a Phase I clinical trial. The trial was initiated in November 2003 and designed to evaluate safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of its vaccine when administered at different dose levels. Vaccination at all dose levels was well tolerated in all subjects and generated a long lasting and specific antibody immune response. The positive results allowed a rational design for the ongoing Phase IIa study.

Bern, March 7th, 2006 – In co-operation with the Swiss Tropical Institute (STI) and the Basel University Hospital, Pevion Biotech conducted a randomized, single blinded placebo-controlled Phase I study. Its goal was to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of two components of the company's multivalent malaria vaccine. The two synthetic peptide vaccine components, which mimic the native structure of important antigens of the malaria parasite, were administered alone and in combination to 46 healthy volunteers. The clinical data showed after three vaccinations that the peptide vaccine is very well tolerated, safe and highly immunogenic. All volunteers demonstrated a positive seroconversion with the appropriate dosage. The elicited antibodies were highly specific and able to inhibit the parasite's ability to invade liver tissue *in vitro*. The Phase I study further indicates that two immunizations with the two components may be sufficient for eliciting an appropriate and long lasting immune response even in subjects without any malaria pre-immunity. Another issue tested in this study was whether the combined delivery of the two vaccine components may interfere with their ability to elicit the appropriate immune response. The study results confirmed that the combined application did not interfere with the development of an immune response to either of the two components.

Peter Klein, CEO of Pevion Biotech, states: "The very positive results of this Phase I study reflect the advantage of combining an already approved vaccine technology with promising new antigens. The two malaria antigens induced an excellent immune response, which lasted for more than 1 year. These results encourage us to advance the vaccine into Phase II clinical testing and to apply Pevion Biotech's PeviPRO™ technology platform for a number of additional indications."

Based on the successful outcome of the malaria Phase I study, Pevion Biotech initiated a Phase IIa clinical study in October 2005. This trial is being conducted to obtain further data about the immunogenicity and efficacy of the two components. First results are expected in mid 2006.

About Pevion Biotech

Pevion Biotech is a privately owned Swiss biopharmaceutical company focusing on the immunological treatment and prevention of infectious diseases and cancer. The company is a leading specialist in the development of efficient and safe vaccines based on its proprietary virosomal technology platforms. Its technology is validated by two registered products which are marketed in over 45 countries. Pevion Biotech's development pipeline includes, among others, vaccines against breast cancer, malaria, Alzheimer's disease and hepatitis C.

Pevion Biotech was founded in 2002 as a joint venture company of Berna Biotech AG (a Crucell Company) (SWX: CRX) and Bachem AG (SWX: BANB). Located in Bern, Switzerland, the company currently has a highly qualified staff of 21 scientists.

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