

Regensburg, January 2012

**Antisense Pharma to pursue first-line treatment with Trabedersen.  
2<sup>nd</sup> line Phase III high grade glioma trial terminated due to patient recruitment issues.**

Antisense Pharma announces today that the ongoing Phase III trial for recurrent or refractory anaplastic astrocytoma (AA) or secondary glioblastoma (GBM) is being terminated due to slow patient recruitment. Trabedersen is an anti-TGF- $\beta$ 2 antisense compound that has generated remarkable survival benefit in multiple indications. The company will pursue 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment of GBM and pancreatic cancer patients, in combination with standard of care. So far, evidence suggests that the immune-mediated mode of action of trabedersen renders it highly suitable for 1<sup>st</sup> line combination treatment.

Recruitment delays are a result of changes in the histopathological grading of patients, introduced by the WHO, which considerably reduced the number of patients diagnosed with AA, already a rare, orphan disease. In addition, advances in the standard of care for 1<sup>st</sup> line patients have rendered many treated patients unsuitable for inclusion, as they no longer receive radiotherapy. Attempts by the management to identify and implement an effective solution, such as amendments to the study design, have not yielded significant improvements in the recruitment rate.

So far, no safety concerns have been raised for Trabedersen, consistent with all previous trials, and efficacy has not yet been assessed in this trial.

The company is on track to commence a planned Phase II trial for 2<sup>nd</sup> line pancreatic cancer in 2012, using systemic delivery. Due to the unprecedented survival benefit and excellent safety profile seen in the preceding Phase I/II trial, a new trial for 1<sup>st</sup> line pancreatic cancer patients, in combination with standard chemotherapy, is planned. In addition a 1<sup>st</sup> line GBM trial, in combination with standard of care, is planned as well.

First-line treatment will allow several-fold more patients access to trabedersen, as compared to 2<sup>nd</sup> line treatment only. This offers a favorable long-term outlook for the company and a substantially larger market potential for trabedersen. Further information, regarding each of the above mentioned planned trials, will be provided as and when available.