



For further information please contact:

ANTISENSE PHARMA GmbH
Dr. Heike Specht / Public Relations
Josef-Engert-Str. 9, D-93053 Regensburg
Telefon: 0941-92013-0 / Fax: -29
e-mail: pr@antisense-pharma.com
www.antisense-pharma.com

Press Release

Phase I/II-trial expanded: TGF-beta2-Inhibitor AP 12009 for Colorectal Carcinoma and Malignant Melanoma Patients

REGENSBURG - May 18th, 2006 - "The first patients with colorectal carcinoma (CRC) entered our phase I/II-study for the systemic treatment of malignant tumors with AP 12009", announced Hubert Heinrichs, M.D., Chief Medical Officer of Antisense Pharma today.

Primary endpoint of the ongoing open-label, multi-center dose-escalation phase I/II-trial is assessment of the maximum tolerated dose and dose-limiting toxicity upon systemic treatment with AP 12009. So far patients with advanced pancreatic carcinoma as well as malignant melanoma stage IV had been admitted to the trial revealing very encouraging data on safety and tolerability.

Aiming at covering a broad spectrum of indications, the company has opened its phase I/II-study for patients with colorectal carcinoma (CRC), stages III and IV, as well as malignant melanoma patients, stage III. "We have only begun mining the full potential of AP 12009", says Karl-Hermann Schlingensiepen, M.D., Chief Executive Officer of Antisense Pharma, commenting on the clinical development program of the drug.

Colorectal carcinoma is the second leading cause of cancer related mortality in Europe and the U.S.A. with a 5-year-survival rate of 8 percent for stage IV. Malignant melanoma is responsible for the highest number of skin cancer-related deaths worldwide and despite increasing incidence rates, effective therapy options are lacking. Advanced stages of colorectal carcinoma, malignant melanoma and pancreatic cancer all are characterized by overexpression of TGF-beta2, a key player in tumor induced immunosuppression, associated with malignant progression and metastasis. The antisense drug AP 12009 specifically and selectively inhibits TGF-beta2 synthesis, offering a new option for the targeted treatment of these diseases.

Antisense Pharma GmbH

Antisense Pharma is a biopharmaceutical company located in Regensburg, Germany. The company focuses on targeted therapies for malignant tumors. Drugs based on antisense technology, peptides and small molecules are discovered and developed for worldwide marketing. The pipeline comprises several products designed to specifically block the synthesis of proteins essential in tumorigenesis. Antisense Pharma GmbH holds the German Founders Award and the Bavarian Innovation Award.

This document contains forward-looking statements with respect to the future business of Antisense Pharma GmbH. By their nature, forward-looking statements and forecasts involve risks and uncertainties because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that could occur in the future. There is a number of factors that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially. Antisense Pharma GmbH disclaims any intent of obligation to update any of these forward-looking statements.

[Press Release May 18th 2006](#)