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Mountain View Pharmaceuticals Receives European Patent on Potential Long-Acting Drug for Multiple Sclerosis

New Data on Next-Generation PEG Published in *Drug Development & Delivery*

2012 BIO International Convention

MENLO PARK, Calif. – (BUSINESS WIRE) – Mountain View Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“MVP”) announced today its receipt of European Patent No. 1 667 708 B1 “*Polyethylene Glycol Conjugates of Interferon-beta-1b with Enhanced in vitro Biological Potency.*” The conjugates covered by this patent could enable less frequent and better tolerated dosing of one of the most widely used treatments worldwide for relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, interferon-*beta*-1b.

MVP also announced the publication of an invited scientific report, titled “*Next-Generation PEGylation Enables Reduced Immunoreactivity of PEG-Protein Conjugates,*” in the June 2012 issue of *Drug Development & Delivery*.

“In contrast with other patents and publications relating to PEG conjugates of interferon-*beta*, MVP’s new European patent claims polymer conjugates of interferon-*beta*-1b that have increased *in vitro* potency, measured with human cancer cells in culture, and methods of synthesis of these novel conjugates,” stated Dr. Mark G. P. Saifer, MVP’s Vice President and Scientific Director. “If our preclinical results are predictive of the performance of the PEG conjugates in humans, conversion of interferon-*beta*-1b to a long-acting form with higher potency could enhance the utility of this drug in the treatment of multiple sclerosis, viral infections and other conditions.”

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Patents disclosing and claiming PEG conjugates of interferon-*beta*-1b have been granted to MVP previously in 13 countries outside of Europe. The new European patent, with 46 claims including claims to methoxyPEG (“mPEG”) and hydroxyPEG conjugates of non-glycosylated interferon-*beta*, will be a key component of the company’s partnering and licensing activities.

MVP’s new publication provides additional evidence for the immunologic advantages of protein conjugates synthesized with the company’s improved PEGylation reagents (PharmaPEG® conjugates). PharmaPEG® is MVP’s registered trademark for the most advanced generation of poly(ethylene glycol) (“PEG”). PharmaPEG® forms significantly less antigenic and less immunogenic conjugates than mPEG, which is used in all currently marketed PEGylated drugs. For a wide variety of proteins, the reductions in immune responses to PharmaPEG conjugates, compared with mPEG conjugates of the same proteins, have ranged from 2-fold to >1,000-fold, as reported in *Drug Development & Delivery*, as well as in a recent publication in *Bioconjugate Chemistry*. The decreased immunoreactivity results from replacement of the methoxy group of mPEG by a hydroxy group at the end of the polymer that is not attached to the protein.

“MVP’s technology related to long-acting forms of drugs based on therapeutic enzymes or cytokines is the product of more than a decade of research and represents a major advance directed toward the multi-billion-dollar market for PEGylated proteins,” said Dr. Merry R. Sherman, Chief Executive Officer and President of MVP. “Our recent publications illustrating the advantages of PharmaPEG-protein conjugates, compared with conventional mPEG-protein conjugates, are expected to reach a wide audience of pharmaceutical professionals, including those attending the Biotechnology International Organization Conference (“BIO 2012”) in Boston.” Dr. Sherman will make a presentation on MVP’s “Next-Generation PEGylation Technology” at BIO 2012 in the BioProcess Theater in Booth 0387 of the Exhibition Hall, at 2 pm on Tuesday, June 19th.

About Mountain View Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (MVP)

MVP is a privately-held California corporation with expertise in the application of advanced polymer-coupling technology to make protein-based drugs safer and longer acting. To date, MVP has been granted 170 patents in 50 countries and regions. Of these patents, 105 are co-assigned to Duke University and are licensed to Savient Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for the right to make, use, offer for sale and sell pegloticase. This drug is a selectively PEGylated enzyme (uricase) that degrades uric acid and has been shown to be safe and effective for the treatment of adults with refractory chronic gout, who are unresponsive or allergic to other available treatments. On September 14, 2010, the U.S. FDA approved its sale by Savient under the trade name KRYSTEXXA[®]. Additional information about MVP and about KRYSTEXXA is available at www.mypharm.com and at www.krystexxa.com, respectively.

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