



PharmaMar presents anti-myeloma activity of Aplidin® at the American Society of Haematology Meeting

Madrid, 10 December 2003: Results of research on Aplidin® in multiple myeloma were presented by Dr. Mitsiades et al., from the Dana Farber Institute (Boston) at the 45th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Haematology (ASH), held in San Diego, USA, from 6-9 December 2003.

Despite recent advances in its therapeutic management, no curative therapy currently exists for multiple myeloma and the identification of novel therapeutic agents remains an urgent priority.

Preliminary results of *in vitro* studies with Aplidin show its activity against a broad panel of human myeloma cell lines and tumour cells freshly isolated from patients. Furthermore, Aplidin seems to be able to overcome the endogenous resistance of myeloma cells to conventional or recently developed anti-myeloma agents and the bone marrow-induced protection of myeloma to chemotherapy. This remarkable *in vitro* cytotoxic activity is triggered by clinically relevant concentrations of Aplidin. Analyses of the patterns of myeloma cell sensitivity to Aplidin relative to other anti-cancer drugs suggest that the anti-myeloma activity of Aplidin is mediated by molecular mechanisms that are different from those of currently available anti-myeloma drugs.

Dr Mitsiades said that “these findings have provided the bases for the future clinical development of Aplidin in Multiple Myeloma”



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PharmaMar is a biopharmaceutical company, advancing cancer care through the discovery and development of innovative marine-derived medicines. PharmaMar's product portfolio currently includes Yondelis™ (co-developed with OrthoBiotech Products L.P.), designated Orphan Drug for STS by the EMEA in 2001 and Orphan Drug for ovarian cancer in 2003; Aplidin®, designated Orphan Drug for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 2003; and Kahalalide F and ES-285 in clinical trials.

PharmaMar, based in Madrid, Spain, is a subsidiary of the Zeltia Group (Spanish stock exchange: ZEL.MC; Bloomberg: ZEL@SM; Reuters: ZEL.MC). PharmaMar can be found on the Web at <http://www.pharmamar.com>.

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