PharmaMar presents new trials with three marine-based drugs at the American Association for Cancer Research convention

The trials provide new information on the drugs' action mechanisms and anti-tumour potential

Madrid, 21 April 2010: PharmaMar, a biopharmaceutical company owned by Grupo Zeltia (ZEL.MC), presented six new trials with marine-based anti-tumour drugs Yondelis®, Zalypsis® and Irvalec® at the 101st Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), held in Washington, D.C. from 17 to 21 April.

The AACR meeting is the leading convention on cancer research, bringing together more than 17,000 attendees each year and covering breakthroughs in oncology and basic, clinical and epidemiological research.

Two trials provided new data on Yondelis® (trabectedin), a marine-based anti-tumour drug currently produced by chemical synthesis. Yondelis® (trabectedin) has European Commission approval for advanced and metastatic soft tissue sarcoma (STS) and for recurrent platinum-sensitive ovarian cancer in combination with Doxil/Caelyx.

Various *in vitro* trials have shown that trabectedin's activity depends at least partly on the nucleotide excision repair (NER) mechanism. A new trial is evaluating if the status of ERCC5 (XPG), an endonuclease-3 that plays a key role in the excision of damaged DNA, is linked to trabectidin's clinical activity in patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma.

New data suggests that overexpression of the wild-type ERCC5 gene may be a predictor of beneficial effects of trabectedin in patients with advanced STS.

A second trial is analysing *in vitro* and *in vivo* activity of trabectedin in a group of 67 human tumours with a view to identifying a common genetic profile so as to pinpoint Yondelis®-sensitive tumours. The results of this analysis demonstrate the viability of combining experimental trials with virtual prediction to identify other tumours that are potential candidates for new preclinical and clinical trials with the compound. Phase II clinical trials

are currently under way with Yondelis® in breast, lung, prostate cancers and paediatric tumours.

Three other trials presented at the AACR meeting provided new data on Irvalec®, a novel marine-based synthetic depsipeptide currently in Phase II trials for lung cancer.

The first trial is evaluating the modulation of initial cytotoxic effects of Irvalec® using zinc and DIDS in lung cancer cells. The results suggest that plasma membrane damage caused by Irvalec® generates a rapid onset of hydroelectrolyte imbalance, causing severe alterations that lead to cell death by necrosis.

A second trial sheds light on the molecular mechanism associated with sensitivity and resistance to Irvalec®. Conclusions show that primary and acquired resistance to Irvalec® may be associated with the expression of ErbB receptors and epithelial-mesenchymal transition markers.

A third trial shows that overexpression of ErbB2 and ErbB3 receptors does not affect sensitivity to Irvalec®, although the receptors do suffer some changes as a result of alterations in the cell membrane produced by the compound.

Another trial suggests that PDGFRA could be a useful predictive biomarker of response to Zalypsis®, a novel chemical entity related to the marine natural compounds jorumycin and the renieramycin family, obtained from molluscs and sponges. Zalpysis is currently in Phase II trials for endometrial and cervical cancer.

About PharmaMar

PharmaMar is Grupo Zeltia's biotechnology subsidiary; it is a world leader in discovering, developing and selling marine-based drugs to treat cancer. Yondelis® is Spain's first anti-cancer drug. It is currently approved for STS in 25 countries outside the EEA, and in 5 of those countries for platinum-sensitive ROC as well. Yondelis® is approved for STS and platinum-sensitive ROC in all 30 countries of the EEA; in Switzerland it is approved for STS. Phase II clinical trials with Yondelis® are also under way on prostate, breast, lung and paediatric cancers. PharmaMar has four other compounds in clinical development: Aplidin®, Irvalec®, Zalypsis® and PM01183. PharmaMar also has a rich pipeline of pre-clinical candidates and a major R&D programme.

Important note

PharmaMar, which is headquartered in Madrid (Spain), is a subsidiary of Grupo Zeltia (Spanish stock exchange: ZEL), which has been listed on the Spanish Stock Exchange since 1963 and on Spain's Electronic Market since 1998. This document is a press release, not a prospectus. This document does not constitute or form part of an offering or invitation to sell or a solicitation to purchase, offer or subscribe shares of the company. Moreover, no reliance should be placed upon this document for any investment decision or contract and it does not constitute a recommendation of any type with regard to the shares of the company.

More information: (Tel: +34 91 444 4500)

Media Relations
Fernando Mugarza

Capital Markets
José Luis Moreno
Florencia Radizza

This note is also available in the "News" section of the PharmaMar web site: www.pharmamar.com