

News Release

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CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOLASIA'S FIRST DRUG INITIATED IN JAPAN – CLINICAL TRIALS ALSO PLANNED FOR CHINA

Tokyo, Japan, March 9th 2009 – Solasia Pharma K.K. (<http://www.solasia.co.jp/en/index.html>), a developer of Western oncology pharmaceuticals in-licensed for commercialization in Asian markets, announced today initiation of a Phase 1 study of SP-01 (long-acting transdermal granisetron patch; brand name: Sancuso®) in Japanese volunteers. This represents the first study implemented by Solasia.

Solasia also indicated that it has begun regulatory and clinical development work of SP-01 in China. Solasia has engaged Excel PharmaStudies Inc. (<http://www.excel-china.com>), China's largest Contract Research Organization (CRO), to assist an in-house team in preparing and carrying out clinical trials of SP-01 in China. In May, 2008, Solasia announced an exclusive license from Prostrakan (UK) to develop Sancuso for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) in Japan and other Asian countries.

Sancuso is the first and only commercialized long-acting granisetron transdermal product. In Japan, granisetron injections and tablets enjoy strong market acceptance and have over 50% market share in this class of agents. Sancuso was recently launched in the US by Prostrakan where it was selected by Time Magazine/CNN as one of the top 10 medical breakthroughs of 2008.

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To support the development of Sancuso and future pipeline products, Solasia has expanded its clinical development and regulatory staff. Yoshihiro Arai, EVP Development commented, "The Solasia team is excited to initiate clinical development of Sancuso, a product that will provide comfort and relief to many Japanese and Chinese cancer patients suffering from nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy."

Solasia also announced that Prostrakan was granted a Japanese patent in June 2008 relating to transdermal patches containing granisetron. "We are very pleased that Prostrakan has obtained the grant of the Japanese patent which will provide IP exclusivity for this transdermal granisetron product against any similar product in Japan through 2024", stated Solasia president Steve Engen. The company further announced that a patent application for the granisetron patch has been filed in China and is currently in the examination process.

About Sancuso:

Sancuso is a long-acting transdermal system, delivering the anti-emetic, granisetron, steadily into the patient's bloodstream over seven days without the need for injections or swallowing pills. Granisetron is a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist with well-established efficacy against chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV). Sancuso was approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) on September 12, 2008. Prostrakan launched Sancuso in the U.S. in the fourth quarter of 2008. Patents protecting Sancuso have been granted in the EU (2007) and Japan (2008).

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About Solasia:

Solasia Pharma K.K. is a privately owned specialty pharmaceutical company based in Tokyo, Japan. Solasia was formed in November 2006 by MPM Capital and Itochu Corporation to address unmet needs for important new Western oncology therapies throughout Asia. Our mission is to expedite patient access to unique oncology therapies through aggressive development and specialized commercialization throughout Japan, China and other Asian countries.

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