

Circadian Sponsors International Conference on Angiogenesis Research

Circadian Technologies Limited, a developer of novel, antibody based drugs to treat cancer, is one of two principal sponsors of the European School of Haematology Interdisciplinary Conference on Angiogenesis to be held in Helsinki, Finland on June 6 and 7. The conference is a highly regarded meeting of leading international angiogenesis researchers from the pharmaceutical industry and academia.

The company's sponsorship is consistent with Circadian's emerging role as one of the leaders in the development of next-generation inhibitors of angiogenesis as treatments for cancer.

Circadian joins Astra Zeneca Oncology as a principal sponsor of the event.

The 2009 conference will feature an impressive line up of more than 35 presenters, with speakers from other leading companies in the field including Genentech, and Regeneron.

The conference will be chaired and hosted by the Chairman of Circadian's Scientific Advisory Board, Professor Kari Alitalo of the University of Helsinki.

Circadian's Managing Director, Mr Robert Klupacs said: "We are proud to be supporting such an important conference bringing together many of the world's experts in angiogenesis."

"Our support is in line with the recent transformation of our business to focus on developing antibody-based drugs to treat cancer using our leading intellectual property position in the field of tumour angiogenesis."

Angiogenesis is the growth of new blood vessels and in cancer tumour growth is caused by stimulation of new blood vessel growth by specific proteins. Circadian is developing treatments to block these proteins and starve tumours.

"Participating in this event is an excellent opportunity for us to continue to build our relationships with major research leaders, and to advance this important field which holds so much potential for improved cancer therapy," said Mr Klupacs.

For more information about the ESH Conference, please visit www.esh.org.

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About Circadian Technologies Limited

Circadian (ASX:CIR) is a biologics drug developer utilising the significant intellectual property portfolio around Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) C and D that it has accumulated in its unlisted wholly owned subsidiary Vegenics. The applications for the VEGF technology, which functions in regulating blood supply, are substantial and broad. Circadian's internal product development programs are focussed on novel anti-cancer therapeutics for large unmet needs. Circadian has also licensed rights to some parts of its intellectual property portfolio for the development of other products to UK company Ark Therapeutics Group plc (LSE: AKT) and ImClone Systems (a wholly owned subsidiary of Eli Lilly & Company - NYSE: LLY). Ark is developing Trinam®, a treatment for vascular grafts associated with renal dialysis based upon Circadian intellectual property which has commenced Phase 3 clinical trials. ImClone Systems is currently developing an antibody-based drug targeting VEGFR-3 for the treatment of solid tumours.

The VEGF patent portfolio developed by LICR and Licentia has been assigned to Vegenics. Vegenics also has rights to CoGenesys Inc/Human Genome Sciences Inc's VEGF-C intellectual property.

About VEGF Technology and angiogenesis

In Cancer

The clinical and outstanding commercial success of Avastin®, an antibody that blocks the activity of VEGF-A, clinically validated anti-angiogenic drugs as an effective means of inhibiting solid tumour growth. By blocking the interaction of VEGF-A with its receptors, primarily VEGFR-2, the multi-billion dollar cancer therapeutic slows tumour growth by inhibiting blood vessel recruitment into the tumour, effectively starving tumours of essential nutrients and oxygen required for growth. Avastin, which is sold by Genentech, now part of Roche, and Hoffman-La Roche, had U.S. sales in 2007 of US\$2.3 billion and worldwide sales in excess of US\$6 billion.

VEGF-C and VEGF-D inhibitors, key therapeutics in the portfolio of Circadian's unlisted subsidiary Vegenics, blocks the alternative ligands for VEGFR-2. As such, they have the potential to block blood vessel growth in tumours resistant to anti-VEGF-A therapy and, when used in combination with drugs like Avastin, may completely shut down angiogenesis (the growth of blood vessels) mediated by VEGFR-2, resulting in greater clinical efficacy.

VEGF-C and VEGF-D also bind and activate VEGFR-3 which drives lymphatic vessel and tumour-associated blood vessel growth. Inhibitors of VEGF-C, VEGF-D and VEGFR-3 thus have therapeutic potential to inhibit not only primary tumour growth through their anti-angiogenic activities, but to also inhibit tumour spread or metastasis via the lymphatic vessels - a mechanism of tumour dissemination that is often the deadliest aspect of many tumour types and a mechanism that is not effectively blocked by anti-VEGF-A or anti-VEGFR-2 therapeutics.

Other Disease Applications

VEGF Technology also has applications in other diseases, where shutting down angiogenesis and/or lymphatic vessel growth is important, such as eye diseases including age related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.