



TransMolecular, Inc. A Neuroscience Biotechnology Company

For Immediate Release
April 1, 2002

Contact: Matthew D. Carrington
Director, Finance and Corporate Development
TransMolecular, Inc.
Ph: 205-972-0770; Fax: 205-972-0780
carrington@transmolecular.com

TransMolecular, Inc. Receives FDA Approval for ¹³¹I-TM-601 IND Application

Phase I/II clinical program will study use of chlorotoxin in glioma patients

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—TransMolecular, Inc. today announced that it has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for its IND (investigational new drug) application for ¹³¹I-TM-601, an anti-cancer drug candidate based on a synthetic version of a naturally occurring scorpion-derived peptide known as chlorotoxin.

Chlorotoxin is a very small, stable and versatile peptide that can cross the blood brain and tissue barriers. Pre-clinical studies show that chlorotoxin is safe in animals and that it specifically binds to its target, a receptor found on many tumor tissues, but does not bind to normal tissues. TransMolecular's lead compound (¹³¹I-TM-601) is a radiopharmaceutical that has shown significant capacity to increase survival in human tumor xenograft mouse models of brain cancer and to image tumors in vivo.

"Radiopharmaceuticals comprising TM-601 show promise as therapeutic agents for glioma, metastatic brain and certain other cancers. We are pleased by the FDA's approval of our IND application to study ¹³¹I-TM-601 in its first disease indication, adult glioma, a major unmet medical need," said Matthew A. Gonda, Ph.D., president and CEO of TransMolecular. The first Phase I/II clinical trial to treat recurrent high-grade glioma with the company's lead compound ¹³¹I-TM-601 will begin soon at two U.S. sites.

According to American Cancer Society statistics, there are approximately 36,000 primary brain tumors reported in the U.S. each year; 16,500 are high-grade gliomas. Approximately 50 percent of all reported cases are fatal within the first year after diagnosis due to the severity and rapid progression of this disease. There is a 98 percent recurrence after the initial standard of care treatment with a median survival of 3-6 months after recurrence. Because of its rarity, glioma is considered an orphan disease, but treatment on a case-by-case basis is more expensive than most other tumor therapies. The markets for diagnostics and therapies for glioma and metastatic brain cancers are expected to exceed \$1 billion in the U.S. alone.

About TransMolecular, Inc.

TransMolecular, Inc., founded in 1996, is a privately held neuroscience biotechnology company committed to discovering, developing and commercializing novel and proprietary products to diagnose and treat disorders and diseases of the central nervous system having inadequate pharmaceutical alternatives, including cancer and pain. The company's corporate office and R&D laboratory are located in Birmingham, Alabama. Additional information is available at www.transmolecular.com.