



TransMolecular, Inc. A Neuroscience Biotechnology Company

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TransMolecular Receives Patents To Protect Composition of Matter and Methods of Treating Cancer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (September 4, 2002) — TransMolecular, Inc. today announced the issuance of two new patents that permit the company—a Birmingham-based neuroscience biotechnology company—to retain all rights to chlorotoxin and its use in treating cancer in humans. Chlorotoxin is a substance derived from scorpion venom, and is the lead compound in TransMolecular's Investigational New Drug, ¹³¹I-TM-601, currently in Phase I/II clinical trials for the treatment of glioma, a deadly form of brain cancer. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has granted U.S. Patent No. 6,319,891 and No. 6,429,187, the fourth and fifth patents owned by or exclusively licensed to TransMolecular, Inc.

"We are very pleased with the issuance of these two very important patents. They are major milestones in the development and protection of our overall market strategy," says Matthew A. Gonda, Ph.D., TransMolecular president and CEO. "We have a broad product pipeline directed to multiple disease targets that are based on chlorotoxin and its use in humans."

Patent No. 6,319,891 covers a method of treating brain cancer and No. 6,429,187 covers chlorotoxin composition of matter. The patents were issued to the UAB Research Foundation at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and describe technology licensed exclusively to TransMolecular, Inc.

TransMolecular's lead compound, ¹³¹I-TM-601, is a radiopharmaceutical containing a synthetic version of chlorotoxin. A multi-center study is currently underway at City of Hope in Duarte, Calif., and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, to evaluate the safety and tolerability of a single dose of ¹³¹I-TM-601, as well as overall tumor response rate in the initial study group of 18 patients.

In pre-clinical studies, TransMolecular scientists determined that ¹³¹I-TM-601 was able to extend survival in a mouse model that mimicked human brain tumors. No toxicities have been observed with TM-601, a drug based on chlorotoxin sequences, administration in pre-clinical animal studies. The Food and Drug Administration approved TransMolecular's IND application to begin a Phase I/II clinical study of the drug in humans in January 2002.

Glioma is highly invasive, sending cancerous cells throughout the brain and spinal cord. Surgical techniques fail to eradicate the tumor and other adjuvant therapies are inadequate. Brain cancers are among the most difficult and expensive cancers to treat. About 36,000 primary brain tumors are reported in the U.S. each year; of these, more than 17,000 are diagnosed with high-grade gliomas. About half of these patients die within the first year, according to the American Cancer Society. There is a need for safe, more effective treatments for glioma.

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, Ala. For more information, visit www.transmolecular.com.

Doctors at City of Hope Cancer Center and the UAB Brain Tumor Treatment and Research Program are currently seeking adult patients with recurrent glioma who have not had prior treatment with gene therapy, brachytherapy, radiosurgery or implants of polymers containing chemotherapeutic agents. Patients must also be eligible for resection of the recurrent tumor. Eighteen patients will be monitored over a six-month period during the study. Prospective patients or their physicians should contact UAB at 205-975-0438 or City of Hope at 626-359-8111, ext. 63033 or ext. 62329.