



# AMURA

## Press Release

### **Amura announces the granting of a key $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

**Cambridge, U.K.** – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Amura announced today the grant, by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, of a key  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor patent thereby providing Amura with patent protection for US7247622 to 2022.

Amura's  $\beta$ -lactamase anti-bacterial oxapenem inhibitors were originally discovered during the early 1990's. Amura has established a comprehensive pre-clinical package for this programme and further research has led to the discovery of a selection of compounds (the 'zwitterions') that exhibit significant improvements and are the subject of the new patent grant.

Beta-lactamases are enzymes produced by some bacteria that are responsible for their resistance to beta-lactam antibiotics such as penicillins, cephalosporins, cephamycins and carbapenems. The production of beta-lactamases is one of the major mechanisms by which bacteria become resistant to antibiotic treatment. Inhibitors of beta-lactamases prevent the enzyme-catalysed deactivation of antibiotics thereby retaining their antibacterial properties and hence their therapeutic effect.

Amura is actively seeking out-licensing partners for its  $\beta$ -lactamase programme for clinical development.

Additional information about Amura is available at the company website: <http://www.amura.co.uk/>

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