



AMURA

Press Release

Amura announces positive results in a human breast cancer model of bone metastasis

Cambridge, U.K. – 26th July 2007

Amura Holdings Limited ("Amura") today announced that a compound from its cathepsin K programme showed positive beneficial effects in a human breast cancer cell induced mouse model of bone metastasis. Mice treated with compound demonstrated a reduction in lesion size associated with metastasis compared to the control group. The results further support progression of these compounds towards the clinic.

Metastasis is the spread of cancer cells from one site to another. In the case of breast cancer metastasis, seventy percent of cancer cells migrate to the bone, usually to multiple sites. Primary breast cancer cells, metastatic breast cancer cells and *in vitro* cultured breast cancer cells have all been shown to produce cathepsin K. Cathepsin K, which is a member of a large family (CAC1) of cysteine peptidases, is an enzyme which breaks down the collagen bone matrix as part of a normal bone remodelling. In bone metastasis, the cancerous cells are far more aggressive, resulting in significant pain and the development of severe osteolytic bone lesions.

The Amura compounds were derived from the proprietary AMcore™ scaffold, which provides a turnkey solution for inhibitor design against cysteine peptidases of the CAC1 family. Cysteine peptidases are involved in several diseases and the AMcore™ scaffold provides a powerful platform for discovery of drugs with potential utility against a range of commercially attractive therapeutic targets. The company has further programmes selectively targeting cathepsin S and other members of this family.

Amura intends to out-license its cathepsin K inhibitor products for clinical development.

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

Contact:

Dr Dan Roach
Avlar BioVentures Limited

☎ +44 (0)1954 211515
☎ +44 (0)1954 211516
✉ DRoach@avlar.com