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Press Release

Amura reports Rheumatoid Arthritis study results

Cambridge, U.K. –1st September 2009

Amura Therapeutics Limited (“Amura”) today announced that leading compounds from its cathepsin inhibitor programme delivered outstanding results in a murine collagen induced arthritis (CIA) model of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The study was performed by Bolder BioPATH Inc, who are world leading experts in the field of arthritic disease.

The study was designed to monitor the inhibitory effects of leading Amura cathepsin S, K and mixed S/K inhibitors on joint damage in mice previously immunised with bovine collagen and with already established arthritis. Histopathological results showed that daily oral dosing of inhibitors significantly reduced damage to cartilage and bone in knee and paw joints, whilst also reducing pannus formation. Reductions were also seen in the number of inflammatory cells infiltrating the affected joints. The results were comparable to the positive control methotrexate, which is the current gold standard treatment for RA.

A previous osteoarthritis study (see press release of 1st April 2009) confirmed the protective effects of a leading Amura cathepsin K inhibitor on the progressive cartilage damage observed in the rat knee joint following surgically-induced medial meniscal tear. Taken together, the results of the RA and OA studies suggest that Amura’s cathepsin inhibitors are able to reduce the joint damage associated with arthritic diseases in general and present a huge opportunity in a combined annual market worth in excess of \$14 billion.

This animal efficacy data forms part of a comprehensive pre-clinical package for Amura’s lead cathepsin inhibitors, which combines pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic data, selectivity and safety assessments, with a fully scalable synthetic route and confirms that these superior molecules possess the necessary attributes for advancement into the clinic.

Amura’s compounds are derived from its 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.

Amura intends to out-license its inhibitor programmes for clinical development and the lead molecule from this study and a first rate back-up molecule are now available for partnering.

Contact:

Dr. Martin Quibell
Amura Therapeutics Limited

☎ +44 (0)1223 839797
☎ +44 (0)1223 839898
✉ martin.quibell@amura.co.uk