

News Release

Bayer Schering Pharma collaborates with AC Immune in the field of Alzheimer's disease

Florbetaben will be used for the very first time in Alzheimer's patients being treated with a vaccination therapy

Newbury, Berkshire, 12th October 2009 – Bayer Schering Pharma AG will provide its development candidate florbetaben, a PET (positron emission tomography) tracer, to the Swiss-based biopharmaceutical company AC Immune SA, to support a clinical trial in the field of Alzheimer's disease (AD). This study is conducted to develop a therapy option for the treatment of AD. Bayer's novel PET tracer florbetaben will be applied for imaging of beta-Amyloid deposition in the brain of patients undergoing the phase I clinical testing of AC Immune's Alzheimer's vaccine ACI-24. In this collaboration, florbetaben will be tested for the very first time in the development of a potential therapeutic for Alzheimer's patients.

"Bayer Schering Pharma has already demonstrated the potential of florbetaben to image beta-Amyloid deposition in the brain in its own phase II study," said Dr. Thomas Balzer, Head of Global Clinical Development Therapeutic Area Diagnostic Imaging at Bayer Schering Pharma. "The cooperation with AC Immune enables the collection of valuable clinical data for florbetaben in patients treated with AC Immune's novel therapeutic vaccine."

"This collaboration with Bayer Schering Pharma adds further value to our Alzheimer's vaccine ACI-24," said Professor Andrea Pfeifer, CEO of AC Immune. "The adoption of a diagnostic imaging substance visualising the deposition of beta-Amyloid that is targeted by our vaccine can be an important parameter for dose selection, and will provide useful complementary data. There is a key trend in the industry to co-develop therapy guiding diagnostics alongside drugs for patients. We look forward to working with Bayer's experts in this ground-breaking collaboration."

Currently, there is no diagnostic test on the market that can detect beta-Amyloid deposition in the brain – a pathological hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease – in a patient’s lifetime. A new diagnostic tool to detect beta-Amyloid in the brain *in vivo* might also be beneficial in detecting the disease earlier, before the symptoms are too advanced so that treatment can be started earlier.

- Ends -

Contact for further information:

Sophia Cadman
Communications & PR Manager, Bayer Schering Pharma
Tel: +44 (0)1635 563235
Email: sophia.cadman@bayerhealthcare.com

Notes to Editors

About Florbetaben (18 F)

Florbetaben is an inlicensed ¹⁸F-labeled PET tracer that specifically binds to deposition of beta-Amyloid. These depositions (plaques) consist of proteins that accumulate in the brain and are a pathological hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease. As the aggregation of the beta-Amyloid protein in the brain is also a key target for new therapeutic treatments under development, florbetaben might also be able to support the development of these new treatment approaches. A phase II study showed that patients with clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease could be differentiated from age-matched healthy volunteers on the basis of florbetaben uptake pattern in the brain. The results of this study were presented at the International Conference on Alzheimer’s diseases (ICAD) in Vienna, Austria in July 2009.

About ACI-24

ACI-24 is an active vaccine stimulating the patient's immune system to produce beta-sheet conformation-specific antibodies that prevent plaque deposition or enhance its clearance. During preclinical development, the ACI-24 has shown high efficacy *in vivo* by memory restoration and plaque reduction. The vaccine is also characterised by a very high specificity due to generating a conformation-specific antibody response. The favourable safety profile of ACI-24 is underlined through the absence of local inflammation in relevant models as well as its T-cell independent mechanism shown in preclinical development.

About the ACI-24 clinical trial

It is a phase I, randomised, double blind, placebo controlled clinical study with the primary objective of evaluating the safety and tolerability of ACI-24 and a secondary objective of evaluating efficacy (immune response and clinical assessment) in mild to moderate AD patients. Phase I is designed to allow for the identification of the best dose of vaccine to be used further in phase II. Three groups of patients, each receiving a different dose of ACI-24, will be observed.

About Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease is a devastating neuro-degenerative disease and the most common cause of dementia. Most cases of Alzheimer's disease affect people over the age of 60. It is a progressive disease that can lead to premature death.

In 2006, estimates suggested that more than 26 million people worldwide were suffering from Alzheimer's disease. By 2050, this number could reach more than 100 million. At present there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, but treatments for symptoms, combined with the right services and support, can make life better for the millions of people living with Alzheimer's.

About AC Immune SA

AC Immune SA is a Swiss-based biopharmaceutical company and a leader in Alzheimer's disease drug development. AC Immune develops innovative therapeutics with "best in class" potential against Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases along three axes: vaccines, antibodies and small molecules. Among other programmes the company is developing an in-house vaccine ACI-24 which commenced phase I/IIa in 2009. Three clinical programmes are focused on Alzheimer's disease and are backed by a rich portfolio of preclinical compounds. The therapeutic molecules are also leveraged for Alzheimer's disease diagnosis and other central nervous system and non-CNS diseases, such as Glaucoma.

About Bayer Schering Pharma

Bayer Schering Pharma is a worldwide leading specialty pharmaceutical company. Its research and business activities are focused on the following areas: Diagnostic Imaging, General Medicine, Haematology & Neurology, Oncology and Women's Healthcare. With innovative products, Bayer Schering Pharma aims for leading positions in specialised markets worldwide. Using new ideas, Bayer Schering Pharma aims to make a contribution to medical progress and strives to improve the quality of patients' lives.

Further information can be found at www.bayerscheringpharma.co.uk

Forward-Looking Statements

This release may contain forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer Group or subgroup management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in Bayer's public reports which are available on the Bayer website at www.bayer.com. The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.