



Avila Therapeutics Presents Clinical and Preclinical Data on AVL-292 Showing Potential for the Treatment of Autoimmune Disease at the 2011 American College of Rheumatology Annual Scientific Meeting

AVL-292 Data Demonstrated Efficacy in Preclinical Arthritis Models and Unique Pharmacodynamic Properties in Human Subjects

BEDFORD, MA – November 8, 2011 - Avila Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company developing targeted covalent drugs that treat diseases through protein silencing, announced today the presentation of data on AVL-292, a clinical-stage inhibitor of Bruton's tyrosine kinase (Btk), at the 2011 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) annual scientific meeting in Chicago, IL. The data demonstrate that the potent and selective covalent inhibition of Btk by AVL-292 results in sustained therapeutic effects in models of rheumatoid arthritis. Furthermore, the safety and pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic attributes in human volunteers show the potential of AVL-292 to deliver substantial clinical benefit for patients suffering from B-cell mediated autoimmune diseases.

“The data we are reporting today highlight Btk as a critical target in autoimmune diseases and underscore the rationale for the treatment of diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis with AVL-292,” commented Juswinder Singh, Ph.D., Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer at Avila Therapeutics. “We are already exploring the treatment of hematological cancers in a Phase 1b clinical study of AVL-292, and believe that the selective inhibition of Btk has applications for a wide range of B cell mediated diseases.”

In a poster presentation titled *“Translational Medicine of a Selective Inhibitor of Btk in Rheumatic Diseases: Pharmacology and Early Clinical Development,”* Avila presented data demonstrating that:

- Daily, oral dosing of AVL-292 is efficacious in a therapeutic model of Collagen Induced Arthritis (“CIA”) in mice, significantly reducing not only clinical arthritis scores but also inflammation, pannus formation in the joint, and damage to cartilage and bone.
- Even after allowing disease to develop in the CIA model, AVL-292 treatment resulted in a rapid reduction of clinical arthritis score as well as a reduction in histopathological evidence of joint inflammation and damage.
- In a Phase 1a healthy volunteer trial, AVL-292 was safe, well-tolerated, and demonstrated dose-proportional exposure and target occupancy. Btk occupancy was detected at all dose levels and complete at doses between 1 and 2 mg/kg.
- Btk occupancy is a biomarker of AVL-292 activity, correlates closely with Btk inhibition, and can be assessed in animal models and human samples using proprietary probe technology.



About Avila Therapeutics™, Inc.

Avila Therapeutics is a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on the design and development of targeted covalent drugs to achieve best-in class outcomes. The company's product pipeline has been built using its proprietary Avilomics™ platform and is currently focused on cancer, viral infection and autoimmune disease. Avila's most advanced product candidate, AVL-292, a potential treatment for cancer and autoimmune diseases, is currently in Phase 1 clinical testing. Avila is funded by leading venture capital firms: Abingworth, Advent Venture Partners, Atlas Venture, Novartis Option Fund, and Polaris Venture Partners. For additional information, please visit <http://www.avilatx.com>.

Contact:

Gina Nugent

The Yates Network

617-460-3579