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## **ASCENTAGE PHARMA GROUP INTERNATIONAL**

**亞盛醫藥集團**

*(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)*

**(Stock Code: 6855)**

### **Voluntary Announcement**

#### **Ascentage Pharma Announces Another Milestone Payment from Its Licensee UNITY Biotechnology, Rapidly Advancing the Clinical Development of Senolytic Drug Candidate UBX1325**

Ascentage Pharma Group International (the “**Company**” or “**Ascentage Pharma**”) is pleased to announce that its global licensee, UNITY Biotechnology, Inc. (“**UNITY**”, NASDAQ:UBX), has reported positive data from a Phase I clinical study of UBX1325, an investigational Bcl-xL inhibiting compound, in patients with certain advanced vascular eye diseases, and has already dosed the first patient in the subsequent Phase IIa clinical study. UBX1325 is developed from BM-962, a drug candidate licensed to UNITY by Ascentage Pharma for the clinical development targeting age-related diseases. According to the terms of the licensing agreement previously entered into between Ascentage Pharma and UNITY, this progress in clinical development will qualify Ascentage Pharma for a milestone payment in the amount of US\$2 million, which will be paid in UNITY common stock.

UBX1325 is a small-molecule inhibitor of Bcl-xL, and the first senolytic therapeutic clinically evaluated in an ophthalmological setting. UBX1325 is designed to inhibit the function of proteins that senescent cells rely on for survival and could potentially provide a valuable alternative or adjunctive treatment option to anti-VEGF therapies. As UNITY reported in its press release<sup>1</sup>, in the Phase I study that evaluated the safety of UBX1325 in patients with advanced diabetic macular edema (DME) or wet age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD) for whom anti-VEGF therapy was no longer considered beneficial, the majority of patients with DME or wet AMD treated with a single injection of UBX1325 achieved rapid improvement in key outcome measures. In terms of tolerability and safety, UBX1325 was shown to be well-tolerated with no treatment-related adverse events or dose-limiting toxicities (DLT). Furthermore, the first patient has already been dosed in a Phase IIa clinical study assessing the safety and efficacy of UBX1325 in a broader population of patients with DME.

In 2016, Ascentage Pharma and UNITY entered into a strategic licensing agreement, whereby UNITY is authorized to screen Ascentage Pharma's Bcl-2 compound series for developing treatments for age-related diseases. The compound BM-962 was selected by UNITY from Ascentage Pharma's library for the development of UBX1325. Pursuant to the licensing agreement, Ascentage Pharma retains the rights to such compound in the Greater China region and plans to potentially establish a joint venture company with UNITY in the future for the development and commercialization of the compound in China.

UNITY is committed to focusing on the development of senolytic therapeutics that eliminate or modulate senescent cells, to slow, halt, or even reverse age-related diseases.

## **About Ascentage Pharma**

Ascentage Pharma is a China-based, globally focused, clinical-stage biotechnology company engaged in developing novel therapies for cancers, CHB (Chronic hepatitis B), and age-related diseases. On October 28, 2019, Ascentage Pharma became listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited with the stock code: 6855.HK.

Ascentage Pharma has its own platform for developing therapeutics that inhibit protein-protein interactions to restore apoptosis or programmed cell death. The company has built a pipeline of eight type I small molecule clinical drug candidates which have entered the clinical development stage, including novel, highly potent Bcl-2 inhibitors, as well as candidates aimed at IAP and MDM2-p53 pathways, and next-generation tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs). Ascentage Pharma is also the only company in the world with active clinical programs targeting all key apoptosis regulators. The Company is conducting more than 40 Phase I/II clinical trials in China, the US and Australia. HQP1351, the Company's core drug candidate developed for the treatment of drug-resistant chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), has been granted an Orphan Drug Designation (ODD) and a Fast Track Designation (FTD) by the US FDA, and a New Drug Application (NDA) for the drug candidate has been submitted and subsequently granted Priority Review by the Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE) in China. As at the date of this announcement, Ascentage Pharma has obtained a total of eleven ODDs from the US FDA for four of the Company's investigational drug candidates.

Leveraging its robust R&D capabilities, Ascentage Pharma has built a portfolio of global intellectual property rights, and entered into global partnerships with numerous renowned biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies and research institutes such as UNITY Biotechnology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Mayo Clinic, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, MSD, and AstraZeneca. The company has built a talented team with global experience in the discovery and development of innovative drugs, and is setting up its world-class commercial manufacturing and Sales & Marketing teams. Ascentage Pharma aims to continuously strengthen its R&D capabilities and accelerate its clinical development programs to fulfil its mission of *addressing unmet clinical needs in China and around the world* for the benefit of more patients.

**Cautionary Statement required by Rule 18A.05 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited:** We cannot guarantee that we will be able to obtain further approval for, or ultimately market, UBX1325 successfully.

By order of the Board  
**Ascentage Pharma Group International**  
**Dr. Yang Dajun**  
*Chairman and Executive Director*

Suzhou, People's Republic of China, July 29, 2021

*As at the date of this announcement, the Board of Directors of the Company comprises Dr. Yang Dajun as Chairman and executive Director, Dr. Wang Shaomeng, Dr. Tian Yuan, Dr. Lu Simon Dazhong and Mr. Liu Qian as non-executive Directors, and Mr. Ye Changqing, Dr. Yin Zheng, Mr. Ren Wei and Dr. David Sidransky as independent non-executive Directors.*

#### **Reference**

1. UNITY Biotechnology announces positive data from Phase I clinical trial of UNX1325 in patients with advanced vascular eye disease. Link: <https://ir.unitybiotechnology.com/news-releases/news-release-details/unity-biotechnology-announces-positive-data-phase-1-clinical>