亞盛醫藥
Ascentage Pharma

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's MDM2-p53 Inhibitor Alrizomadlin (APG-115) Granted Rare Pediatric Disease Designation by the US FDA for the Treatment of Neuroblastoma

Ascentage Pharma Group International (the "**Company**" or "**Ascentage Pharma**") is pleased to announce that its novel MDM2-p53 inhibitor under development, alrizomadlin (APG-115), was granted a Rare Pediatric Disease (RPD) designation by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), for the treatment of neuroblastoma. As at the date of this announcement, APG-115 has received a total of six Orphan Drug Designations (ODDs) and two RPDs by the FDA.

The Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA), which came into effect in 2012, established the rare pediatric disease program and its related priority review voucher (PRV) policy to encourage the development of novel therapies for the treatment of rare pediatric diseases. FDASIA defines RPDs as rare diseases or conditions (diseases with a prevalence of less than 200,000 patients in the US) primarily affecting individuals aged from birth to 18 years, including age groups from neonates, infants, children, to adolescents. Being qualified for the PRV is one of the most outstanding benefits of the RPD designation, as sponsors who are rewarded with the PRV are eligible for priority review of future New Drug Applications or Biologics License Applications, and they may also choose to have the PRV transferred for use by another sponsor.

Neuroblastoma is a type of embryonic tumor arising from the peripheral sympathetic nervous system. It is the most common extracranial solid tumor in children and the third most common pediatric cancer[1]. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), there are about 700 to 800 new cases of neuroblastoma each year in the United States. This number has remained about the same for many years. Due to its aggressive nature and high risk of metastasis, neuroblastoma accounts for up to 15% of all deaths caused by pediatric cancers[2]. It is mostly diagnosed in infancy with 41% of patients diagnosed in the first three months after birth, and most patients are diagnosed by the age of 5 years with a median age of diagnosis around 18 months[3].

Neuroblastoma is a serious condition that can be life-threatening to pediatric patients. Patients diagnosed as low-risk usually have a good prognosis. However, those diagnosed with high-risk disease are difficult to cure, with a large proportion of these patients eventually experiencing disease recurrence. Despite intense multimodal treatments, patients with high-risk neuroblastoma have a poor prognosis with an Event-Free Survival (EFS) of less than 50%. Patients with relapsed or refractory neuroblastoma are extremely difficult to cure, and there is no standard treatment for these patients.

Being developed by Ascentage Pharma, APG-115 is an orally administered, selective inhibitor of the MDM2-p53 protein. Alrizomadlin has strong binding affinity to MDM2 and is designed to activate tumor suppression activity of p53 by blocking the MDM2-p53 protein-protein interaction. So far, APG-115 as a single agent has shown antitumor activity in in vitro and in vivo models of neuroblastoma, demonstrating a mechanism of action that supports the clinical development of the drug candidate in patients with neuroblastoma.

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, and dual Bcl-2/Bcl-xL 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 three known classes of key apoptosis regulators. The Company is conducting more than 50 Phase I/II clinical trials in China, the US, Australia and Europe. Olverembatinib, the Company's core drug candidate developed for the treatment of drug-resistant chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), was granted Priority Review status and a Breakthrough Therapy Designation (BTD) by the Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE) of China National Medical Products Administration (NMPA), and is already approved for the indication. In addition, Olverembatinib has also been granted an Orphan Drug Designation (ODD) and a Fast Track Designation (FTD) by the US FDA, and an Orphan Designation by the EU. As at the date of this announcement, Ascentage Pharma has obtained a total of 15 ODDs from the US FDA and 1 ODD from the EU for four of the Company's investigational drug candidates. The Company has been designated for multiple major national R&D projects in China, including five Major New Drug Development Projects, one Enterprise Innovative Drug Incubator Base status, four Innovative Drug Research and Development Programs, and one Major Project for the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.

Leveraging its robust research and development capabilities, Ascentage Pharma has built a portfolio of global intellectual property rights, and entered into global partnerships with numerous leading 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 global and talented team with experience in the research and development of innovative drugs and clinical development, and is setting up its commercial manufacturing and sales and marketing teams with high standards. Ascentage Pharma aims to continuously strengthen its research and development capabilities and accelerate the clinical development progress of its product pipeline to fulfil its mission of 'addressing unmet clinical needs of patients 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, APG-115 successfully.

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

Suzhou, People's Republic of China, March 22, 2022

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.

References

1. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2014. Atlanta, Ga: American Cancer
2. Ward E, DeSantis C, et al. Childhood and adolescent cancer statistics, 2014. CA Cancer J Clin. Mar-Apr 2014;64(2):83-103.
3. Shohet J, Foster J. Neuroblastoma. BMJ. 2017 May 3;357:j1863.