

Sunesis Pharmaceuticals to Present Data on SNS-595 at American Society for Hematology Meeting

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SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Dec 04, 2006 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: SNSS) today announced that the company will present data from clinical and preclinical studies of SNS-595 in advanced leukemias at the upcoming American Society for Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting being held December 9-12, 2006 in Orlando, FL. SNS-595 is a first-in-class cell-cycle modulator that is believed to act by targeting proliferating cancer cells and inducing apoptosis, or programmed cell death, during the S phase of the cell cycle.

Sunesis is conducting a Phase 1 clinical trial to examine the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of SNS-595 among patients with refractory acute leukemia (primarily AML). Preliminary results from the Phase 1 clinical trial and from preclinical studies of SNS-595 will be presented in two poster sessions on Sunday, December 10, 2006 starting at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time in Hall E1 of the West Building at the Orange County Convention Center.

Session: Acute Myeloid Leukemia: Novel Therapies

* A Phase 1 Dose-Escalation Study of the Novel Cell Cycle Active Agent
SNS-595 in Advanced Leukemias

Session: Leukemias: Biology, Cytogenetics, and Molecular Markers in Diagnosis and Prognosis: AML

* SNS-595 a Novel S Phase Active Cytotoxic Acts Synergistically with
Cytarabine To Reduce Bone Marrow Cellularity and Circulating Neutrophils

About Sunesis' Oncology Programs

Sunesis has built a portfolio of preclinical- and development-stage product candidates in oncology focused on novel pathways and targets, including inhibition of the cell-cycle and survival signaling. Sunesis is currently conducting Phase 2 and Phase 1 clinical trials in lung cancer and acute myeloid leukemia for its lead compound, SNS-595. A second compound, SNS-032, is in a Phase 1/2 clinical trial to examine the safety and preliminary anti-tumor activity among patients with lung cancer, breast cancer or melanoma. Sunesis is also conducting GLP toxicology studies of a third drug candidate, an Aurora kinase inhibitor known as SNS-314. In addition, in cooperation with Biogen Idec, Sunesis is developing novel small molecule inhibitors of Raf kinase and other oncology kinases.

About Sunesis Pharmaceuticals

Sunesis is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of novel small molecule therapeutics for oncology and other serious diseases. Sunesis has built a broad product candidate portfolio through internal discovery and in-licensing of novel cancer therapeutics. Sunesis is advancing its product candidates through in-house research and development efforts and strategic collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies. For additional information on Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, please visit <http://www.sunesis.com>.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may contain forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. Sunesis may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations contained in such forward-looking statements. Actual results or events could differ materially from the plans, intentions and expectations contained in such forward-looking statements. Sunesis does not assume any obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. For further information on Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, please visit <http://www.sunesis.com>.

SOURCE Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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