

## Sunesis Announces Multiple Clinical Data Presentations

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SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Oct 21, 2008 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: SNSS), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel oncology therapeutics, today announced upcoming data and corporate presentations. Voreloxin mechanism of action data and interim data from the company's ongoing Phase 1 clinical trial of SNS-314 in patients with advanced solid tumors will be presented at the 20th EORTC-NCI-AACR Symposium on "Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics." Updated interim data from Sunesis' ongoing Phase 2 clinical trial of voreloxin in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer patients will be presented during the 12th Biennial Meeting International Gynecologic Cancer Society. Sunesis will also present a corporate presentation at the BIO Investor Forum. Following are the details on each of these presentations.

### EORTC/NCI/AACR Symposium on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics, Geneva, Switzerland

Thursday, October 23

Poster Presentation

Abstract: 283

Title: "Phase 1 Trial of SNS-314, a Novel Selective Inhibitor of Aurora Kinases A, B, and C, in Advanced Solid Tumor Patients"

Time: 8:00 a.m. CEST / 2:00 a.m. EDT

Friday, October 24

Poster Presentation

Abstract: 598

Title: "Voreloxin (formerly SNS-595) is a Potent DNA Intercalator and Topoisomerase II Poison that Induces Cell Cycle Dependent DNA Damage and Rapid Apoptosis in Cancer Cell Lines"

Time: 8:00 a.m. CEST / 2:00 a.m. EDT

### 12th Biennial Meeting International Gynecologic Cancer Society, Bangkok, Thailand

Saturday, October 25

Poster Presentation

Abstract: 1607

Title: "A Phase 2 Trial of Voreloxin (SNS-595) in Women with Platinum-Resistant Ovarian Cancer"

Time: 8:00 a.m. UCT / Friday, 9:00 p.m. EDT

Upcoming Corporate Presentation

BIO Investor Forum

Palace Hotel, San Francisco

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

3:45 p.m. PT

Interested parties may access a webcast of the BIO Investor Forum presentation by visiting the Sunesis website at <http://ir.sunesis.com>. A replay of the webcast will be archived on the "Calendar of Events" page in the Investors and Media section of the Sunesis website for two weeks.

### About Voreloxin

Voreloxin is a first-in-class naphthyridine analog, a chemical structure closely related to that of the quinolone antibacterial agents. Voreloxin exerts potent anti-cancer activity through a mechanism that involves intercalation into DNA and an inhibition of topoisomerase II activity that results in replication-dependent, site-selective double-strand breaks in DNA followed by G2 arrest and apoptosis. Voreloxin is currently being evaluated as a single agent in a Phase 2 clinical trial

(known as the REVEAL-1 trial) in previously untreated elderly patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), in a Phase 1b/2 clinical trial combining voreloxin with cytarabine for the treatment of patients with relapsed/refractory AML, and as a single agent in a Phase 2 clinical trial in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer. In clinical trials conducted to date, voreloxin has been generally well tolerated and has shown objective responses in both solid and hematologic tumor types.

#### About SNS-314

SNS-314, a potent and selective pan-Aurora kinase inhibitor, is being studied in a Phase 1 dose-escalating clinical trial in patients with advanced solid tumors.

#### About Sunesis Pharmaceuticals

Sunesis is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of new oncology therapeutics for the treatment of solid and hematologic cancers. Sunesis has built a highly experienced cancer drug development organization committed to advancing its lead product candidate, voreloxin, in multiple indications to improve the lives of people with cancer. For additional information on Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, please visit <http://www.sunesis.com>.

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