Sunesis Pharmaceuticals Announces Presentations of VALOR Data at the 20th Congress of the European Hematology Association

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Sunesis to Host Conference Call and Webcast Friday, June 12 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., May 21, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq:SNSS) today announced that two poster presentations describing results from the VALOR trial will be presented at the 20th Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA) being held June 11 – 14, 2015, at the Reed Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center in Vienna, Austria. VALOR is a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 3 trial which enrolled 711 adult patients with first relapsed or refractory AML at 124 leading sites in 15 countries. Patients were stratified for age, geographic region and disease status and randomized one to one to receive either vosaroxin and cytarabine or placebo and cytarabine.

The details for the poster presentations are as follows:

Date & Time: Friday, June 12, 2015, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. European Central Time

Poster Title: Improved survival in patients ≥60 with first relapsed/refractory acute myeloid leukemia treated with vosaroxin plus cytarabine vs placebo plus cytarabine: results from the Phase 3 VALOR study

Abstract Number: 4192

Session Title: Acute myeloid leukemia – Clinical 2

Location: Poster area (Hall C)

The full abstract can be viewed here here.

Date & Time: Friday, June 12, 2015, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. European Central Time

Poster Title: Allogeneic transplant in patients ≥60 years of age with first relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia after treatment with vosaroxin or placebo plus cytarabine: results from VALOR

Abstract Number: 4693

Session ID: Acute myeloid leukemia – Clinical 1

Location: Poster area (Hall C)

The full abstract can be viewed here here.

The company will also publish data from VALOR that will be on display as an E-poster:

Date & Time: From Friday, June 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. to Saturday, June 13, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. European Central Time

Poster Title: Impact of cytogenetics on clinical outcome in patients with first relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia treated with vosaroxin plus cytarabine: results from VALOR

Abstract Number: 4730

Location: E-Poster Screens

The full abstract can be viewed here here.

Conference Call Information

Sunesis will host a conference call to discuss the data on Friday, June 12th at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. The call can be

accessed by dialing (866) 515-2908 (U.S. and Canada) or (617) 399-5122 (international), and entering passcode 93595855. To access the live audio webcast, or the subsequent archived recording, visit the "Investors and Media - Calendar of Events" section of the Sunesis website at www.sunesis.com. The webcast will be recorded and available for replay on the company's website for two weeks.

About QINPREZO™ (vosaroxin)

QINPREZO™ (vosaroxin) is an anti-cancer quinolone derivative (AQD), a class of compounds that has not been used previously for the treatment of cancer. Preclinical data demonstrate that vosaroxin both intercalates DNA and inhibits topoisomerase II, resulting in replication-dependent, site-selective DNA damage, G2 arrest and apoptosis. Both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Commission have granted orphan drug designation to vosaroxin for the treatment of AML. Additionally, vosaroxin has been granted fast track designation by the FDA for the potential treatment of relapsed or refractory AML in combination with cytarabine. Vosaroxin is an investigational drug that has not been approved for use in any jurisdiction.

The trademark name QINPREZO is conditionally accepted by the FDA and the EMA as the proprietary name for the vosaroxin drug product candidate.

About AML

AML is a rapidly progressing cancer of the blood characterized by the uncontrolled proliferation of immature blast cells in the bone marrow. The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be approximately 20,830 new cases of AML and approximately 10,460 deaths from AML in the U.S. in 2015. Additionally, it is estimated that the prevalence of AML across major global markets (U.S., France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom and Japan) is over 75,000. AML is generally a disease of older adults, and the median age of a patient diagnosed with AML is about 67 years. AML patients with relapsed or refractory disease and newly diagnosed AML patients over 60 years of age with poor prognostic risk factors typically die within one year, resulting in an acute need for new treatment options for these patients.

About Sunesis Pharmaceuticals

Sunesis is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of new oncology therapeutics for the potential treatment of solid and hematologic cancers. Sunesis has built a highly experienced cancer drug development organization committed to advancing its lead product candidate, vosaroxin, in multiple indications to improve the lives of people with cancer.

For additional information on Sunesis, please visit http://www.sunesis.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements, including statements related to estimated new cases of AML, its prevalence across major global markets, prognosis for patients with AML, and the need for new treatment options. Sunesis' clinical development of vosaroxin, including the analysis of the results from VALOR clinical trial. Words such as "estimate," "potential," "will," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based upon Sunesis' current expectations. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Sunesis' actual results and the timing of events could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of these risks and uncertainties, which include, without limitation, the risk that Sunesis' development activities for vosaroxin could be otherwise halted or significantly delayed for various reasons, the risk that Sunesis' clinical studies for vosaroxin may not demonstrate safety or efficacy or lead to regulatory approval, the risk that data to date and trends may not be predictive of future data or results, risks related to the conduct of Sunesis' clinical trials, the risk that Sunesis' clinical studies for vosaroxin may not lead to regulatory approval, risks related to Sunesis' need for substantial additional funding to complete the development and commercialization of vosaroxin, and risks related to Sunesis' ability to raise the capital that it believes to be accessible and is required to fully finance the development and

commercialization of vosaroxin. These and other risk factors are discussed under "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in Sunesis' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015. Sunesis expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in Sunesis' expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statements are based.

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