

Sunesis Pharmaceuticals to Present Interim Clinical Data From Voreloxin (Formerly SNS-595) Ovarian Cancer Trial at 44th ASCO Annual Meeting and Acute Myeloid Leukemia Trials at 13th EHA Congress

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SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., May 28, 2008 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: SNSS) will present data from ongoing clinical trials of voreloxin (formerly SNS-595) at two major upcoming oncology conferences.

Updated interim data from Sunesis' ongoing Phase 2 clinical trial of voreloxin in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer patients will be presented during the 44th American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting being held May 30 - June 3, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois.

Updated results and a comparative safety and response analysis in older patients (\geq 60 years old) and younger patients ($<$ 60 years old) from the company's Phase 1 clinical trial of voreloxin in relapsed or refractory acute leukemia patients will be presented at the 13th Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA) being held June 12 - 15, 2008 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The presentation will also include preliminary data from the company's Phase 1b trial of voreloxin combined with cytarabine in relapsed/refractory acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients. In addition, data from the company's ongoing Phase 1 clinical trial of SNS-032 in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and multiple myeloma will be presented at EHA.

44th ASCO Annual Meeting

- o A PHASE 2 TRIAL OF SNS-595 IN WOMEN WITH PLATINUM RESISTANT EPITHELIAL OVARIAN CANCER
Abstract #5582
General poster session Gynecologic Cancer: Ovarian Cancer
Saturday, May 31, 2008, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CST, S Hall A1

13th Congress of the European Hematology Association

- o SAFETY AND EFFICACY EXPERIENCE OF SNS-595 IN RELAPSED/REFRACTORY ACUTE LEUKEMIA PATIENTS \geq 60 YEARS OLD COMPARED TO $<$ 60 YEARS OLD: RESULTS OF A PHASE 1 STUDY
Abstract #0515
Poster session 2: Acute myeloid leukemia -- Clinical II
Saturday, June 14, 2008, 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. CEST
- o A PHASE 1 TRIAL OF SNS-032, A POTENT AND SPECIFIC CDK 2, 7 AND 9 INHIBITOR, IN CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA AND MULTIPLE MYELOMA
Abstract #0792
Poster session 2: Novel therapies, drug resistance and pharmacology II
Saturday, June 14, 2008, 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. CEST

All clinical data presented will be available following each conference on the Sunesis corporate website at <http://www.sunesis.com>.

About Sunesis' Oncology Programs

Sunesis has built a rich portfolio of product candidates in oncology focused on novel pathways and targets, including inhibition of the cell-cycle and survival signaling.

Sunesis' lead compound, voreloxin (formerly SNS-595), is a novel naphthyridine analog, structurally related to quinolones, a class of compounds which has not been used previously for the treatment of cancer. Voreloxin both intercalates DNA and inhibits topoisomerase II, resulting in replication-dependent, site-selective DNA damage, irreversible G2 arrest and rapid apoptosis. Voreloxin is currently being evaluated in a Phase 2 clinical trial (known as the REVEAL-1 trial) in previously untreated elderly AML patients, in a Phase 1b 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.

SNS-032, Sunesis' potent and selective inhibitor of cyclin-dependent kinases 2, 7 and 9, is being evaluated in a Phase 1 clinical trial in chronic lymphocytic leukemia and multiple myeloma. 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 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>.

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