



Medicines for Malaria Venture

Medicines for Malaria Venture and GlaxoSmithKline Collaborate To Fight Malaria

Project Team Selects a Pyridone Drug Candidate for Pre-clinical Development

GENEVA, Switzerland -- 11 November 2004 -- Today, Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) announced that they have signed an agreement with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to develop GW844520X, a member of the novel class of pyridone compounds that has shown promising antimalarial activities. Pyridones work by inhibiting the energy processes of the microorganism that causes malaria.

GW844520X is the first drug candidate to emerge from one of four projects in the GSK-MMV 'mini-portfolio' research collaboration. This collaboration is investigating a number of new compounds that could be developed as potential antimalarials. The Pyridone project was selected by MMV's Expert Scientific Committee as the 2004 winner of its "Project of the Year" award for its rapid and successful progress in finding a viable drug candidate for development.

GW844520X is currently undergoing a detailed preclinical safety assessment. If successful, Phase I clinical trials where the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics in humans are studied could begin in early 2005.

"In GSK, MMV has a model industry partner. The rapid progress of the Pyridone project is a perfect example of how a public-private partnership can work together to accelerate the development of effective and affordable antimalarial treatment for the people of disease-endemic areas," said Dr. Christopher Hentschel, Chief Executive Officer of MMV. "GW844520X has the potential to become a major weapon against drug-resistant malaria."

"We are pleased to move forward with GW844520X, as there is a critical need for new medicines to combat malaria," commented Dr. Federico Gomez de las Heras, Director of the diseases of the developing world discovery unit at GSK. "Our partnership with MMV may yield an important new treatment for the millions of malaria sufferers in the developing world."

The World Health Organization estimates that there are 300 – 500 million malaria cases annually, directly causing one million deaths and contributing to a further 1.7 million deaths¹. Although it is a curable disease if promptly diagnosed and properly treated, malaria is still the leading cause of death in young children in Africa where 3,000 children die everyday of this disease and countless more are severely disabled. Many of these children die because the drugs they take to treat the disease do not always work due to drug resistance. The most commonly available treatments, such as chloroquine and sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine (SP), are increasingly being rendered useless in many parts of the world. In pre-clinical research, GW844520X has shown activity against strains of malaria resistant to other antimalarials.

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About MMV

Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to reducing the burden of malaria in disease-endemic countries by discovering, developing and delivering new affordable antimalarials through effective public-private partnership. After nearly five years of operation, MMV is managing the largest-ever portfolio of malaria research with 21 projects in different stages of drug research and development. MMV's goal is to register at least one new antimalarial before 2010 and maintain a sustainable pipeline of antimalarials to meet the needs of the 2.4 billion people living with malaria in the poorest regions of the world. <http://www.mmv.org>

About GSK

GlaxoSmithKline - one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies - is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.

GSK is committed to playing a leading role in addressing the healthcare crisis in the developing world. GSK believes it is the only company researching new vaccines and treatments for all three of the WHO's priority diseases in the developing world – HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. GSK has 26 clinical development programmes for diseases of relevance to the developing world and a number of preclinical projects. For more information on GSK's R&D for diseases of the developing world please see: <http://science.gsk.com/about/disease.htm>

For more information and interview requests:

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¹ World Health Organization, RBM Infosheet 1 of 11, March 2002