

11th May, 2009

ECI301 IND Application to the US FDA

TWIMC :

We are pleased to inform you that on 8th May, 2009, ECI filed an ECI301 IND Application to the US Food and Drug Administration for ECI301. ECI301 is our revolutionary cancer therapy drug with metastasis suppressive features when administered intravenously in conjunction with radiation therapy.

ECI301 is a derivative of human chemokine, Macrophage Inflammatory Protein (MIP) -1α , known to recruit CCR1/CCR5 expressing effector cells including monocytes, DCs, NK cells and T lymphocytes. Given concomitantly with radiation, in preclinical study, ECI301 has achieved complete remission of half the control groups as well as life prolongation. ECI301 is nearly free from serious side effects inherent in the use of toxic anticancer chemotherapeutic drugs. At the same time, ECI301 is effective not only at the irradiated cancer site but also inhibits remote and non-irradiated cancer ("abscopal effect"). It thus raises a high expectation for human application.

The IND application this time is designed to launch a Phase I clinical trial to confirm safety and suitability for radiation therapy applicable cancers including non-small cell lung cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer and uterine cancer. ECI has already exchanged the Clinical Trial Agreement with the National Institute on Aging, one of the renowned institutes in the National Institutes of Health. The Phase I clinical trial will be conducted at the National Institute on Aging following approval of their Institutional Review Board, expected shortly. 30 days after IND Application, unless the FDA points out contrary to the application, it shall be automatically accepted (30 day rule).

We expect that some of ECI301' s efficacy will be revealed during the Phase I study. Therefore, as early as later this year, radiation-combined ECI301 IV therapy for applicable cancers may reveal an anti-tumor effect.

ECI is the first Japanese university-launched bio venture company to file an IND Application to the US FDA.

ECI301 represents a novel approach to cancer therapy; there are currently no drugs approved for this purpose. It has been hypothesized to have the ability to modify the immune response to malignancies in conjunction with the inflammation occurring in response to radiation treatment. Due to the potential for improved efficacy to treatment, and the potential for lesser cytotoxicity possibly due to the myeloprotective and anti-mitotic actions of the MIP-1 α family, it is expected that ECI301 will be well tolerated in human trials, with much fewer side effects than traditional chemotherapies.

We would like to provide you with further information as soon as we get any significant result from Phase I clinical trial to be started shortly.

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