



## **First European Results for Kiadis Pharma Lead Product ATIR**

### *Successful Evaluation of Kiadis Pharma ATIR as Strategy for Mismatched Stem Cell Transplantation*

**Lyon, March 27, 2007** - Pharmaceutical product development company Kiadis Pharma today announced the initial European results of its investigational product ATIR. Professor Velardi from the University of Perugia in Italy reported the results during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) in Lyon, France.

Professor Velardi successfully treated 9 blood cancer patients who received stem cell transplants from mismatched donors, followed by a Donor Lymphocyte Infusion in which harmful T cells were selectively removed with Theralux™ ATIR. After treatment with ATIR, the frequencies of alloantigen-specific T cells were successfully reduced and pathogen-specific responses to pathogen antigens were retained. The trial incorporated infusion of photo-alleledepleted donor T cells after haploidentical stem cell transplantation with the aim of decreasing infection-related mortality. All 9 patients responded well to the treatment. The results are an important milestone in the development of ATIR as a revolutionary approach to allow potentially life-saving mismatched stem cell transplantation as treatment option for end-stage blood cancer patients.

*"Our extensive preclinical research already indicated that ATIR is very effective for selective depletion of alloreactive T cells from haploidentical blood stem cell allografts while retaining an important third-party response,"* said Dr. Andrea Velardi, M.D., Professor of Clinical Immunology at the University of Perugia. *"The current clinical results demonstrate that we were able to successfully reproduce these results in a clinical environment. Based on this, we will further expand our trial of ATIR at the University of Perugia in close collaboration with Kiadis Pharma "*

The European ATIR trial by Andrea Velardi, M.D., Professor of Clinical Immunology at the University of Perugia is the second phase I/II clinical trial of ATIR. Professor Denis-Claude Roy at Maisonneuve Rosemount Hospital in Montreal started the first clinical trial of ATIR in 2005. Both trials aim to investigate the potential of ATIR to make the use of mismatched stem cell transplantation a feasible treatment for blood cancer patients who are not responding to first- and second line treatments and who do not have access to a matched donor. For these patients ATIR can enable a potentially life-saving transplantation.

*"The broad endorsement of ATIR by key opinion leaders in this field is exemplified by the initiative of Professor Velardi."* Manja Bouman, CEO Kiadis Pharma, commented. *"These excellent results in the Perugia trial provide Kiadis Pharma with important external*

*validation. Furthermore, the trial adds valuable information regarding the robustness of our technology."*

#### **About Kiadis Pharma B.V.**

Kiadis Pharma is a fully dedicated pharmaceutical product development company focused on oncology, with four programs in clinical development and an extensive preclinical pipeline. Key areas for Kiadis Pharma are clinical indications in blood cancers and solid tumors and the development of novel therapies based upon the company's knowledge of the role of aberrant signal transduction pathways in cancer biology. Kiadis Pharma is headquartered in the Netherlands with facilities in Groningen, the Netherlands and Montreal, Canada.

- **ATIR**

ATIR is an investigational treatment for end stage blood cancer patients to achieve sustained remission after stem cell transplantation by restoring their immune system, which protects them against both infection and cancer relapse. Donor cells known as "activated alloreactive T cells" can attack the tissues and organs of the patient (host), leading to a serious condition called acute graft-versus-host disease (GvHD). ATIR is designed to selectively remove these harmful T cells from the donor graft while leaving T cells that help fight infection and cancer.

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