

6 Wembley Court
Albany, New York

Access to New, Innovative Drug Therapies Will Result in Improved Health and Increased Longevity for Patients Fighting Chronic Disease and Ailments.

Throughout 2004, six members of the New York Health Products Council announced the release of thirteen new prescription drugs that help patients manage and fight diseases that affect over 70 million people in the United States each year. From bone fractures, to cancer, to heart and lung disease, and mental illness, these newest drugs entering the market have expanded the treatment options for patients and physicians to offer a better and more effective way to manage and control their illnesses.

Each year more than \$33.2 billion is invested in research and development by pharmaceutical companies to find new drugs that will ease pain and discomfort, sustain life, and cure patients of ailments and chronic diseases. The new prescription medications approved this year by the FDA includes offering life sustaining alternatives in regards to breast and colon cancers, providing better treatment and management of mental illnesses, offering quicker healing times in regards to bone fractures, and providing increased quality of life in terms of lung and heart disease. Based on the improved results from these new medications, cost savings to the healthcare industry overall will number in the millions annually from reduced hospitalizations, follow-up care and physicians visits by patients who have access to these new drugs.

The following is a list of new medications and advances that have been released in 2004. For more information, please visit the web sites listed at the end of this release.

ANTIBIOTICS

Abbott Laboratories has announced that a new FDA-approved 250mg/5mL dosing option of the antibiotic **OMNICEF®** (cefdinir) Oral Suspension (OS) is available for use in pediatric patients six months to 12 years old. The more concentrated formulation allows parents to administer fewer teaspoons per dose of the antibiotic to their children.

Omnicef® OS was originally approved in 1997 at 125mg/5mL to treat bacterial infections in children such as ear infections, strep throat and skin infections. *September 2004; Abbott Laboratories*

BONE FRACTURES

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals has announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved **rhBMP-2/ACS** (recombinant human Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2/Absorbable Collagen Sponge), a novel protein device that enhances bone healing, for use in the treatment of acute, open tibia shaft

fractures in adults. The device consists of the protein rhBMP-2 placed on an absorbable collagen sponge. It will be used after stabilization of the bone by orthopedic surgeons.

The data package Wyeth submitted to the FDA was based on one of the largest orthopedic fracture clinical trials ever conducted. The use of rhBMP-2/ACS 1.5 mg/mL in more than 400 patients during surgery significantly improved the probability of fracture healing as evidenced by a reduced need for secondary procedures. *May 2004, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals*

BREAST CANCER

Novartis has announced that **FEMARA**® (letrozole tablets) is the first therapy approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for extended adjuvant treatment of postmenopausal women with early breast cancer who have received adjuvant (e.g. post-surgery) tamoxifen therapy for five years. This priority review approval marks the first time that the nearly 100,000 women in the United States who complete tamoxifen therapy each year will have a medical option to reduce their ongoing risk of breast cancer recurrence.

The approval for the extended adjuvant indication was based on results from a landmark international, independent MA-17 study, which included more than 5,100 postmenopausal women. The study showed that Femara® reduced the risk of cancer coming back, or disease-free survival, by 38% and significantly increased a woman's chance of staying cancer-free. It also greatly reduced the chance of breast cancer returning to another part of the body, or distant metastases, by 39%.

Femara®, a leading once-a-day oral aromatase inhibitor, is also indicated for first-line treatment of postmenopausal women with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer and in postmenopausal women with disease progression following antiestrogen therapy.

October 2004; Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

CHOLESTEROL

Abbott Laboratories has announced that it received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval to market a new formulation of **TriCor**® (fenofibrate) Tablets for the treatment of lipid disorders such as mixed dyslipidemia – conditions related to abnormal levels of fat, including cholesterol and triglycerides, in the bloodstream. In addition to appropriate diet, TriCor® is used to treat adults after results of lifestyle changes are unsuccessful. TriCor® reduces elevated LDL (“bad”) cholesterol, total cholesterol, triglycerides and apolipoprotein B, and increases HDL (“good”) cholesterol.

Cholesterol is a natural, waxy, fat-like substance found in the body. Elevated LDL cholesterol can lead to heart attacks and other cardiovascular related problems. Unlike high LDL cholesterol, a high HDL cholesterol level is considered good because it can often help reduce the risks for heart disease.

November 2004; Abbott Laboratories

CHRONIC CONSTIPATION

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a supplemental indication for its motility agent **ZELNORM**® (tegaserod maleate) for the treatment of chronic idiopathic constipation in male and female patients less than 65 years of age.

Zelnorm® has been available since July 2002 as the first and only prescription medication proven to provide women with the relief of abdominal discomfort and pain, bloating and constipation associated with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

Constipation is one of the leading gastrointestinal complaints in the United States, affecting nearly 18% of the population, or 37 million people. It accounts for nearly a million visits to emergency rooms every year, almost six million visits to doctors' offices, and thousands of hospitalizations.

August 2004, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

COLORECTAL CANCER

Sanofi-Syhelabo Inc. has announced that **ELOXATIN™** (oxaliplatin for injection) in combination with 5FU/LV has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the first-line treatment of advanced colorectal cancer. Eloxatin™ has already been approved since August 2002 for second line treatment of patients with metastatic carcinoma of the colon or rectum in the U.S.

Clinical data show that patients with advanced colorectal cancer treated with Eloxatin™ given in combination with 5-FU/LV as first-line chemotherapy had a statistically significant improvement of nearly five months in median survival time.

In addition, Sanofi-Syhelabo has announced that it has submitted a supplemental New Drug Application (sNDA) for Eloxatin™ in the adjuvant treatment of patients with colon cancer. Adjuvant therapy is a treatment following surgery, with the goal of eradicating any remaining cancer cells, and increasing cure rate. Clinical trials showed that the addition of Eloxatin™ to the current standard of post-operative chemotherapy, reduces the risk of recurrence by 23% at three years in patients who have undergone surgery for their primary tumor.

About one million new cases of colorectal cancer are diagnosed worldwide every year, and about 150,000 new cases in the U.S. According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of malignancy-related death in the U.S., accounting for 10 to 15% of all cancer deaths. Over a lifetime, one in 18 people develop colorectal cancer, and every year, about 56,000 people die from it in the United States. *January 2004; Sanofi-Syhelabo Inc.*

HEART DISEASE

Pfizer Inc. has announced that **CADUET®** (amlodipine besylate and atorvastatin calcium), the first single pill that treats both high blood pressure and high cholesterol, has been made widely available for prescription to patients throughout the United States. Caduet® combines two of the world's leading medications into one pill: Norvasc® (amlodipine besylate), to treat high blood pressure and angina, and Lipitor® (atorvastatin calcium), to treat high cholesterol.

High blood pressure and high cholesterol are two of the major, controllable risk factors for heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. Fewer than 10% of patients are at recommended levels for both blood pressure and cholesterol, and an estimated 30 million Americans are diagnosed with both risk factors. *June 2004; Pfizer Inc.*

HEMOPHILIA

The United States Food and Drug Administration has approved Wyeth Pharmaceutical's **ReFacto⁰ ANTIHEMOPHILIC FACTOR (Recombinant) R2 KIT**, the first needle-less reconstitution device with a pre-filled diluent syringe for hemophilia. The R2 Kit provides a faster and simpler infusion process compared to previous methods and the adapter and pre-filled syringe allow ReFacto to be reconstituted without the risk of needle exposure.

Hemophilia A is a rare, inherited blood clotting disorder for which there is no cure. People with hemophilia A are deficient in the key protein (factor VIII) that is vital in the clotting cascade to prevent bleeding. In the United States, between 15,000 and 17,000 people have hemophilia A.

September 2004; Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

LUNG DISEASE

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has announced the approval of **SPIRIVA[®] HANDIHALER[®]** (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) for the long-term, once-daily maintenance treatment of bronchospasm associated with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Spiriva[®] was discovered and developed by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and will be co-promoted in the U.S. with Pfizer, Inc.

Spiriva[®] is the first inhaled treatment to provide significant and sustained improvements in lung function with once-daily dosing. Spiriva[®] helps COPD patients breath easier by opening narrowed airways and helping keep them open for 24 hours.

COPD, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is a lung disease primarily caused by smoking. It is a slowly progressive disease of the airways that is characterized by a gradual loss of lung function. There are an estimated 24 million Americans who suffer from COPD, with over 50% under the age of 65. COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and is projected to become the third leading fatal illness by 2020. The annual cost to the nation for COPD in 2000 was estimated to be approximately \$30.4 billion.

February 2004; Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

PROSTATE CARE

Sanofi-Synthelabo Inc. has announced that it will begin marketing **UROXATRAL[®]** (alfuzosin hydrochloride extended-release tablets), a treatment for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) or non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate.

Uroxatral[®] is a once-daily prescription alpha1-blocker that effectively relieves the signs and symptoms of BPH with a low incidence of sexual side effects.

BPH affects more than eight million men in the U.S. and more than half of all men over age 60. After age 80, men have a 60% chance of developing the condition. Left untreated, the symptoms may progress, which can lead to serious health problems including urinary tract infections, bladder and kidney damage, bladder stones, incontinence, and acute urinary retention.

March 2004; Sanofi-Synthelabo

PROSTATE CANCER

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted approval to Sanofi-Syhelabo Inc. for the four-month formulation of **ELIGARD®** 30mg (leuprolide acetate for injectable suspension). Eligard® is a hormone therapy for the palliative treatment of advanced prostate cancer designed to suppress testosterone, which may slow tumor growth.

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer (excluding skin cancer) diagnosed in American men. In 2003, an estimated 220,900 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed in the U.S. *February 2003; Sanofi-Syhelabo Inc*

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved an expanded indication for Abbott Laboratories' rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treatment, **HUMIRA®** (adalimumab), to include improvement in physical function for adult patients with moderately to severely active RA.

Humira® is the only fully human monoclonal antibody approved by the FDA for reducing the signs and symptoms, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in adults with moderately to severely active RA who have had an insufficient response to one or more disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs).

More than 5 million people worldwide suffer from RZ, a chronic autoimmune disease that causes pain, swelling and stiffness in the joints of the hands, feet and wrists, and often leads to the destruction of joints. *August 2004; Abbott Laboratories*

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Janssen Pharmaceutica has announced the approval of **RISPERDAL® CONSTATM** by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of schizophrenia. RISPERDAL® CONSTATM is the first long acting, newer-generation (atypical) anti-psychotic to be approved by the FDA that delivers and maintains therapeutic medication levels in the body through just one injection every two weeks.

Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe, and disabling brain disease. Approximately 1 percent of the population develops schizophrenia during their lifetime and more than 2 million Americans suffer from the illness in a given year. People with schizophrenia often suffer terrifying symptoms such as hearing internal voices not heard by others, or believing that other people are reading their minds, controlling their thoughts, or plotting to harm them. Available treatments can relieve many symptoms, but most people with schizophrenia continue to suffer some symptoms throughout their lives.

January 2004; Janssen Pharmaceutica

For further information, contact member companies through their websites:

Abbott Laboratories – www.abbottimmunology.com

Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation – www.boehringer-ingelheim.com

Janssen Pharmaceutica - www.janssenpharmaceutica.be

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation – www.Novartis.com

Pfizer Inc. – www.pfizer.com

Sanofi-Syhelabo Inc. – www.sanofi-synthelabous.com

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals – www.wyeth.com