Medtronic Begins Transcatheter Aortic Valve Trial in Japan

Medtronic, Inc. (NYSE: MDT) today announced the first implant in a clinical trial in Japan that will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the Medtronic CoreValve® System.

The successful procedure in the trial was led by Professor Yoshiki Sawa of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at Osaka University Hospital. "With the number of aortic valve stenosis patients steadily rising as the Japanese population ages, we consider this an important step towards the introduction of a new therapeutic option to the healthcare system," said Professor Sawa.

The CoreValve System provides a minimally invasive treatment option for patients with symptomatic, severe aortic stenosis who are at high risk, or are ineligible, for open-heart surgery. Worldwide, approximately 300,000 people have been diagnosed with this condition, and approximately one-third of these patients are deemed at too high a risk for open-heart surgery. In the United States, the CoreValve System is currently limited to investigational use.

Medtronic also received approval from the Korea Food & Drug Administration (KFDA) for the CoreValve System in October.

Intellect Neurosciences Obtains Two New Patents in Japan for Alzheimer’s Immunotherapy Programs

Intelllect Neurosciences, Inc. (OTCBB: ILNS), a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery and development of disease-modifying therapeutic agents for the treatment of Alzheimer’s and other neurological diseases announces today that the Japanese Patent Office has granted the company two new patents for its Alzheimer’s immunotherapy programs. Behind the United States, Japan is the second largest pharmaceutical market worldwide based on total revenue.

"Building our intellectual property portfolio across the globe is an essential part of our overall business plan," commented Daniel Chain, Ph.D., Chairman and CEO of Intellect Neurosciences. "As we continue development of these technologies, through significant milestones in the near future, we anticipate continued interest in our pipeline from strategic partners and additional revenue-generating partnerships."

One patent is for the company’s RECALL-VAX™ technology and follows patents granted for that technology in Europe and the United States. The second is for IN-N01, which is already patented in the United States. The new immunotherapy patents expand the company’s Japanese patent portfolio, which began in 2006 with its ANTISENILIN® Alzheimer’s monoclonal antibody technology.

RECALL-VAX is an active vaccine intended to generate highly specific antibodies against beta amyloid in serum of patients. The vaccine is a chimeric peptide comprised of a short human antigen B-cell neoepitope linked to a bacterial T-cell epitope such as Tetanus Toxoid against which most people have been previously vaccinated. The vaccine has therapeutic as well as prophylactic potential. Intellect is initiating further proof of concept studies in France to obtain multiple biomarker read-outs in transgenic models of Alzheimer’s disease prior to commencing planned preclinical development work and ultimately testing in human clinical trials.

IN-N01 is a proprietary product of the company’s ANTISENILIN technology platform, which includes other products in development such as Bapineuzumab, which are being developed independently by major pharmaceutical companies. IN-N01 has similar specificity for the beta amyloid toxin as does Bapineuzumab. However, in contrast to Bapineuzumab, IN-N01 may have reduced risk of inflammation from immune responses in patients. In addition, IN-N01 is being developed as an antibody drug conjugate with OX2 under Intellect’s new CONJUMAB-A platform technology. This combination is expected to increase clearance of beta amyloid from the brain as well as reduce inflammation, which can result in vasogenic edema, a side-effect of immunotherapy in some patients that result from antibody-mediated dissolution of plaque. The CONJUMAB-A platform for which IN-N01-OX2 is the flagship molecule, is applicable to a broad range of diseases including: Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s, Age-Related Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma, Cerebral Angiopathy, Frontotemporal Dementia, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Pick’s disease, Cortical Basal Degeneration and Peripheral Amyloidosis.