
OTHER NEWS TO NOTE

- **Can-Fite BioPharma Ltd.**, of Petach Tikva, Israel, reported preclinical studies demonstrated that its lead drug, CF101, is minimally metabolized in the liver and excreted intact in the urine, preventing adverse events. The company said the finding supported its plans to proceed to a Phase IIb trial in rheumatoid arthritis. CF101 is designed to work by targeting the adenosine A3 receptor.

- **Cytokinetics Inc.**, of South San Francisco, agreed to a one-year extension of its alliance with **GlaxoSmithKline plc**, of London, on the mitotic kinesin, centromere-associated protein E (CENP-E). To date, the five-year relationship has generated two drug candidates that inhibit kinesin spindle protein, ispinesib and SB-743921, and a potential drug candidate, GSK-923295, which targets CENP-E. Ispinesib and SB-743921 are in clinical trials, and GSK-923295 remains in preclinical development. In the research extension, both companies will perform activities focused to translational research directed toward CENP-E, a mitotic kinesin. Financial terms were not disclosed. (See *BioWorld Today*, June 26, 2001.)

- **Discovery Laboratories Inc.**, of Warrington, Pa., engaged Jefferies & Co. Inc., of New York, to assist in identifying and evaluating strategic alternatives, such as alliances, commercial and development partnerships, financings and business combinations, intended to enhance the future growth potential of the company's surfactant replacement therapy pipeline. In April, Discovery's lead product, Surfaxin, received its second approvable letter for the prevention of respiratory distress syndrome in premature infants. The FDA cited manufacturing concerns, and the company has not yet been able to resolve those issues. Shares of Discovery (NASDAQ:DSCO) gained 33 cents, or 24.6 percent, Tuesday to close at \$1.67. (See *BioWorld Today*, April 6, 2006, and April 26, 2006.)

- **EMD Pharmaceuticals Inc.**, of Durham, N.C., a U.S. affiliate of **Merck KGaA**, of Darmstadt, Germany, completed submission of a new drug application for Cyanokit (hydroxocobalamin), in development for the treatment of known or suspected cyanide poisoning and is marketed in France by Merck KGaA affiliate Merck Sante. The FDA previously granted Cyanokit fast-track status.

- **Praecis Pharmaceuticals Inc.**, of Waltham, Mass., said it terminated efforts to license or sell its Plenaxis assets by June 30, 2006, and will, as previously planned, work with the FDA to discontinue the limited distribution of Plenaxis, a prostate cancer drug, in the U.S. Praecis estimates it will record a total charge of \$7.5 million in the second quarter relating to the remaining value of Plenaxis inventory and commitments. The company continues to believe that its existing cash and investments will be sufficient capital to sustain operations through the end of 2007. As of March 31,

Praecis has cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities totaling \$52.7 million. Its shares (NASDAQ:PRCS) fell 33.4 percent Tuesday, closing at \$3.43, down \$1.72. (See *BioWorld Today*, May 23, 2005, and Oct. 12, 2005.)

- **Reaction Biology Corp.**, of Malvern, Pa., was awarded a \$940,000 SBIR grant from the National Cancer Institute to create a new kinase profiling and high-throughput screening method using radioisotopes and microarrays. The funding will be used to migrate the current well-plate radioisotope methods onto the company's Discovery-Dot nanoliter screening platform.

APPOINTMENTS AND ADVANCEMENTS

- **Ablynx**, of Ghent, Belgium, appointed Eva-Lotta Allan chief business officer.

- **Abraxis BioScience Inc.**, of Los Angeles, appointed Frank Harmon executive vice president, global operations; Sam Trippie senior vice president, manufacturing; and Jeff Silverman vice president, operations integration and new technology development. The company also named others to its executive management team: Richard Maroun as chief administrative officer; Thomas Silberg as executive vice president, commercial operations and operational excellence; John Weidenbruch as general counsel and assistant corporate secretary; Bruce Wendel as executive vice president, corporate development; and Ronald Pauli as interim chief financial officer.

- **Abt Associates**, of Cambridge, Mass., appointed Kay Larholt vice president and executive director, biostatistics/epidemiology.

- **Acadia Pharmaceuticals Inc.**, of San Diego, appointed Roger Mills executive vice president, development.

- **Affibody AB**, of Stockholm, Sweden, appointed Ulf Boberg CEO.

- **Affymax Inc.**, of Palo Alto, Calif., appointed Kay Slocum senior vice president of human resources.

- **Allos Therapeutics Inc.**, of Westminster, Colo., appointed James Caruso executive vice president, chief commercial officer.

- **Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc.**, of Cambridge, Mass., appointed Saraswathy Nochur vice president, regulatory affairs.

- **Alpharma Inc.**, of Fort Lee, N.J., appointed Dean Mitchell president and CEO.

- **Altair Nanotechnologies Inc.**, of Reno, Nev., appointed Pierre Lortie to its board.

- **Altus Pharmaceuticals Inc.**, of Cambridge, Mass., appointed Burkhard Blank senior vice president medicine, regulatory affairs and project management.

- **Amphion Innovations plc**, of New York, said its partner company, Motif BioSciences Inc., named Zaki Hosny deputy chairman and CEO.