

PRESS RELEASE

Wilex and Fox Chase Cancer Center awarded first Biotechnology Clinical Partnership Award worth \$3.9M from U.S. Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program

-- \$3.9M grant will fund clinical trials in the U.S. at Fox Chase Cancer Center with Wilex's novel drug candidate WX-UK1 in breast cancer patients.--

Munich (Germany), September 4, 2003. Wilex AG, Munich, a privately held biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the development of novel cancer therapies, and Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Pa. (USA), have been awarded the first Biotechnology Clinical Partnership Award worth \$3.9 million from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Breast Cancer Research Program. The award will support the clinical development of Wilex's novel compound WX-UK1 for the investigational anti-metastatic treatment of patients with advanced breast cancer in two clinical trials at Fox Chase.

This is the first Biotechnology Clinical Partnership Award that has ever been awarded by the U.S. DoD Breast Cancer Research Program. The goal of this award is to establish partnerships between the biotechnology industry and academic institutions that will accelerate the clinical development of novel compounds with the potential to revolutionize breast cancer therapeutics or chemoprevention.

According to the DoD, to receive the Biotechnology Clinical Partnership Award, one partner must have the expertise in drug development and a promising innovative breast cancer therapeutic ready for clinical trials in humans. The other partner should have the expertise and the means to direct clinical trials and to accrue an appropriate number of patients.

Lori J. Goldstein, M.D., Director of Fox Chase's Breast Evaluation Center and Leader of the Breast Cancer Research Program at Fox Chase, said: "Our partnership with Wilex allows us to study a unique approach to treating breast cancer using a novel agent. We are grateful to the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program for providing the funding to make this partnership possible. I think we can expect to identify effective breast cancer treatments more quickly because of strong relationships between the biotechnology industry and clinical investigators."

Prof. Olaf G. Wilhelm, M.D., Chief Executive Officer of Wilex said: "It is a great honor for Wilex to receive this prestigious award from the U.S. Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. Our compound, WX-UK1, is focused upon a biologic target directly connected to cancer pathogenesis and offers a new and non-cytotoxic mechanism of action. We are extremely proud that with Fox Chase Cancer Center we have a highly experienced and acknowledged partner ambitious to carry out the clinical development of WX-UK1 together with us in the U.S."

Background on WX-UK1

WX-UK1, a novel non-cytotoxic drug candidate, is being developed for the anti-metastatic investigational treatment of patients with breast cancer and other solid tumors. WX-UK1 is a synthetic small molecule inhibitor of serine proteases and the Urokinase-type Plasminogen Activator (uPA) system, which have been shown to play a key role in metastasis and primary tumor growth of solid cancers including breast, gastric, and colon cancer. In pre-clinical studies, WX-UK1 significantly reduced metastasis formation and primary tumor growth. In a clinical Phase Ia trial with healthy volunteers conducted in Germany, WX-UK1 was safe and well tolerated at all doses tested. WX-UK1 is currently being tested as a single agent in a Phase I/II trial in cancer patients in Germany. In May 2003, Willex obtained an IND (Investigational New Drug) approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the clinical development of WX-UK1 in the U.S.

Background on the U.S. Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program

The DoD Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) is a biomedical research program that the United States Congress directs to be performed by the Department of Defense (DoD). The Department of Defense has designated the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command to administrate the program. The BCRP was established in 1992 with the overall goal to promote research directed toward eradicating breast cancer. The Congressional appropriation for 2003 year is BCRP is \$150 million dollars. For further information please visit: <http://cdmrp.army.mil>.

Background on Fox Chase Cancer Center

Fox Chase Cancer Center is an independent, nonprofit institution devoted to improving cancer treatment and prevention. Fox Chase's mission is to reduce the burden of human cancer through the highest-quality programs in research and patient care, including cancer prevention, treatment, early detection and education. Fox Chase's 100-bed hospital is the fourth largest in the US devoted entirely to cancer care. Fox Chase was one of the nation's first comprehensive cancer centers designated by the US National Cancer Institute in 1974. In an effort to contribute to the reduction of both the incidences of breast cancer and the morbidity and mortality due to the disease, Fox Chase has developed a multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Program encompassing basic, clinical, and prevention and control research. Clinical research involves investigational agents for all stages of disease. For further information please visit: www.fccc.edu/research/pid/goldstein/.

Background on Willex AG

Willex is developing novel cancer therapies for the treatment of various tumors including renal cell cancer, breast, gastric, and colon cancer. Therapies are tailored to the individual needs of cancer patient subpopulations in order to provide effective and well tolerated treatment. Willex has three products in clinical trials and six in pre-clinical and research. The Company has two therapeutic platforms, antibody-based and small molecule-based therapies. Willex was founded in 1997 by clinical oncologists of Technical University of Munich. For further information please visit: www.willex.com.

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