Neuren expands its patent portfolio to Parkinson's Disease and Hypertension

6 September 2005: Neuren Pharmaceuticals (ASX: NEU) today announced that it has been issued two more US patents.

The first issued patent, entitled "Regulation of Tyrosine Hydroxylase Using Glypromate" (patent no: 6,933,282) provides further protection for Neuren's lead compound, Glypromate®, and analogs in chronic conditions. This patent will be critical for the application of the Glypromate® family to Parkinson's Disease. Tyrosine Hydroxylase is the enzyme that makes the neurotransmitter dopamine, which is deficient and critical in Parkinson's Disease.

Parkinson's Disease is a slowly progressive disorder of the central nervous system that affects movement, muscle control and balance. Although the exact cause of Parkinson's Disease is unknown, research has concentrated on dopamine production, genetics, environmental toxins, endogenous toxins and viral infection.

"The evidence that we have seen shows Glypromate and possibly its analogs have effect in animal models of Parkinson's disease. This is a key expansion of our patent portfolio, greatly enhancing Neuren's potential to pursue drug development in chronic conditions," said Mr David Clarke, Chief Executive Officer of Neuren.

The second patent, "Treatment of Hypertension Using Growth Hormone in Mammals" (patent no: 6,933,278) is directed to treating hypertension through reduction of systolic blood pressure in selected patient groups by administering an effective amount of growth hormone. Neuren is an exclusive licensee of this issued patent from the University of Auckland.

"We have been studying the use of growth hormone and analogs as an element of therapy in metabolic disorders, which includes hypertension, obesity and high blood lipid levels.

Both of these patents enhance the scientific and commercial validity of Neuren's product development strategy," Mr Clarke added.

About Glypromate®
Glypromate® is a naturally occurring compound that Neuren believes is produced as part of the brain's response to stress and injury. Glypromate® has been shown to act by multiple pathways to protect brain tissue from injury. Glypromate® is Neuren's lead drug. It and related compounds are candidates for treatment of conditions caused by chronic or acute brain injury.

About Neuren Pharmaceuticals
Neuren Pharmaceuticals (ASX: NEU) is a biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutics in the fields of neuroprotection and metabolic disorders. The Neuren portfolio consists of five product families, targeting markets with large unmet needs and limited competition. Neuren has two lead, clinical candidates, Glypromate® and NNZ-2566, presently in development to treat a range of acute neurological conditions. Neuren has commercial and development partnerships, including with Pfizer, the US Army's Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and Metabolic Pharmaceuticals.

For more information, please visit Neuren's website at www.neurenpharma.com

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