

NeuTec Pharma completes patient recruitment in breast cancer clinical trial using lead drug Mycograb[®]

6 December 2005 – Manchester, UK: *NeuTec Pharma* plc (“*NeuTec*”) announces that patient recruitment in its clinical study in breast cancer patients has been completed ahead of schedule. The phase Ib, pharmacokinetic, multi-centre, open label study is evaluating the safety and efficacy of Mycograb[®] administered in combination with Docetaxel in metastatic or recurrent breast cancer patients.

The primary objective of the study is to observe the safety and tolerability of Mycograb[®] administered in combination with current gold standard therapy. The secondary objective of the study is to monitor the response rate of the target tumours and overall survival and progression-free survival through 7 months post treatment. It is too early at this stage to comment upon results from the study; however, an update will be given with the Interim Results for the period ended 31 December 2005 in March 2006.

Breast cancer continues to be a major cause of mortality and morbidity worldwide. Currently there is no curative therapy for metastatic breast cancer, despite early diagnosis, and the five year survival rate for advanced cancers is only 18%.

Professor James Burnie, CEO, commented “We are pleased to have completed patient recruitment so promptly and look forward to reporting results next year. This trial represents an exciting next stage in exploiting Mycograb[®], the human antibody fragment active against extra cellular human and fungal hsp90. Hsp90 has been described as a prime target for combinatorial therapy in cancer and was described recently in *Science* magazine as ‘the Achilles heel of fungal infection’. In all these diseases a key feature is rapid spread through tissues and we believe that Mycograb[®] has the potential to help prevent this.”

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Notes to editors:

NeuTec Pharma plc is a biopharmaceutical company formed in 1997 specialising in the development of genetically recombinant antibodies, or “grabs”, for the treatment of life-threatening infections. In February 2002 the Company’s equity was admitted on the Alternative Investment Market (“AIM”) of the London Stock Exchange.

The development of NeuTec's products differs from the traditional approach used by conventional pharmaceutical companies which screen numerous chemical compounds for activity against bacteria and fungi. Many of these compounds will be too toxic for human use. In contrast, NeuTec identifies naturally occurring potentially protective antibodies from patients who have recovered from infection and then uses its platform technology Fabtec[®] for the identification of new therapeutic antibody fragments. As a result, these “grabs” are likely to be intrinsically safer than antibiotics.

NeuTec's two leading drug candidates are Mycograb[®], which targets systemic candidiasis, and Aurograb[®], which targets *Staphylococcus aureus* including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (“MRSA”). A confirmatory study completed in 2004 using Mycograb[®] demonstrated that use of this hsp90 inhibitor is highly effective in improving outcome and reducing mortality when given in combination with conventional antifungal drugs to patients with invasive fungal infections.

Hsp90 and cancer: there is increasing evidence that hsp90, as a molecular chaperone, plays an important role in the development, maintenance and progression of cancer, and as such hsp90 has been identified as a target for new cancer therapies (Workman 2004). Normally in humans, hsp90 is resident within the cell and functions intracellularly, acting as a cytosolic molecular chaperone (Picard 2004). But in certain types of cancers it appears on the cell surface. Hsp90 can function in the extra cellular space and has recently been found to be necessary for the extra cellular maturation of the matrix metalloproteinase MMP2, which is a secreted protein, known to be mediator of invasion by cancer cells. By assisting MMP2, hsp90 promotes the migration of cancer cells through the extra cellular protein meshwork (Picard 2004). Antibodies to hsp90 have been shown to cause a loss of invasiveness.