



Immunomic Therapeutics' Sub-Licensee Announces LAMP Cancer Vaccine Meets Phase I/II Endpoint, 14 of 20 Patients in Remission

Rockville, MD, December 11, 2009 — Rockville, MD, December 11, 2009 – Dr. Bill Hearl, President and CEO of Immunomic Therapeutics, Inc., (ITI) announced today that its sub-licensee, the Geron Corporation (Nasdaq: GERN), reported preliminary results from a Phase II study of GRNVAC1, a cancer vaccine for patients with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). A key feature of GRNVAC1 vaccine, an autologous dendritic cell vaccine targeting telomerase in AML patients, is the incorporation of the targeting sequence of the lysosomal associated membrane protein (LAMP) -1 into the mRNA dendritic cell loading sequence. LAMP technology is sub-licensed by ITI to Geron for use in telomerase cancer vaccine clinical trials.

Quoting from the Geron Press Release:

The multicenter, open-label trial is designed to evaluate the feasibility of GRNVAC1 manufacture and the safety and tolerability of the vaccination regimen in patients with AML who are in complete clinical remission. Additional objectives of the study are to evaluate the immune responses to GRNVAC1 and to explore the effects of vaccination on minimal residual disease and relapse rates in this patient population.

"First, we are pleased to have met our endpoints of safety and tolerability," said Stephen M. Kelsey, M.D., Geron's executive vice president and chief medical officer, oncology. "At this point in the study a number of high risk patients have entered the extended boost phase of the vaccination regimen. These patients have been in remission for a period ranging from four months to nearly two years. Our analyses of minimal residual disease by qPCR of WT-1 are also very encouraging with one patient whose WT-1 levels became undetectable following vaccination."

Data presented

Fourteen out of 20 patients in the study remain in complete clinical remission (CR). Median duration of CR, including the patients who have relapsed, is 12 months. Six of the patients in CR are in the extended boost phase of vaccination and the duration of their remission since the start of vaccination ranges from four to 20 months. Four of these six patients are at a high risk of relapse as predicted by their cytogenetics or because they are in the second CR. Follow-up of the patients for approximately one additional year is required in order to estimate the impact of vaccination on disease-free survival. Enrollment of additional patients will end this month.

Expression of WT-1, as a marker of minimal residual disease, was sequentially analysed by qPCR in 19 patients. The 14 patients who remain in CR are negative for WT-1, while four of five with clinical relapse were WT-1 positive. One patient was positive for WT-1 prior to vaccination with GRNVAC1 and became WT-1 negative during the course of vaccination.

Patient immune response to telomerase after vaccination with GRNVAC1 was evaluated using two methods: the delayed-type hypersensitivity (DTH) skin response and the ELISPOT assay to measure the presence of activated T cells specific to hTERT. Positive overall immune responses were detected in 12 out of the 20 patients. No correlation has yet emerged between positive immune response and patient remission status.

Twenty patients have received GRNVAC1 product in the study. One patient relapsed prior to vaccination. GRNVAC1 was found to be safe and generally well tolerated over multiple vaccinations, including one patient who had 28 serial vaccinations to date.

Dr. Hearl, congratulating the research team at Geron for advancing the LAMP - telomerase vaccine to its current stage of clinical development, remarked "These new data from Geron further validate the ability of LAMP vaccines to stimulate the immune response in human patients. Taken in combination with the earlier results observed in prostate cancer patients, it is becoming clear that this form of therapy and this vaccine in particular can have an impact on the future of treating cancer patients. We're pleased that our LAMP technology is a part of this important result and are looking forward to seeing the full report at the conclusion of the study."

The entire Geron press release is available on their website, www.geron.com.

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About Immunomic Therapeutics

Immunomic Therapeutics, Inc. ("ITI") is a privately held clinical stage biotechnology company headquartered in Rockville, Maryland with offices in Baltimore & Lancaster, PA. ITI is developing next generation vaccines based on patented LAMP Technology. Our LAMP-vax™ platform significantly increases the effectiveness of the immune response to nucleic acid vaccines while simplifying overall vaccine design and delivery, yielding safer, more cost-effective human and animal therapies. Our LAMP constructs have been validated in human clinical trials (Geron's GRNVAC1 cancer) and have been applied to a wide breadth of targets including infectious disease (Influenza, HIV, West Nile Virus, Dengue and others), allergy and cancer. More information about ITI and LAMP technology can be obtained from www.immunomix.com.

This press release may contain forward looking statements regarding, among other matters, the Company's future prospects. Forward looking statements address matters that are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that can cause actual results to differ materially. Investors are cautioned that such forward-looking statements in this press release regarding potential applications of ITI's technologies, constitute forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, including, without limitation, risks inherent in the development and commercialization of potential products, uncertainty of clinical trial results or regulatory approvals or clearances, need for future capital, dependence upon collaborators and maintenance of our intellectual property rights. Future results of the Company will depend on a variety of factors, including the timing of significant orders, the ability of the Company to timely manufacture and deliver ordered products, the ability of the Company to bring new systems to market, the timing of new product releases by the Company's competitors and other competitive factors.

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