



Invests In Midway Pharmaceuticals to Support Promising Development Program for GI Therapies

May 17, 2006 09:27 AM Eastern Daylight Time

BIOWIRE2K

PHILADELPHIA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 17, 2006--

BioAdvance Investment Recognizes Potential of Midway's Proprietary Polymer MDY-1001 to Treat Disorders Including Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis

“One of the most important roles BioAdvance plays is to be the first institutional investor in promising new life sciences companies”

BioAdvance, the Biotechnology Greenhouse of Southeastern Pennsylvania and one of the nation's leading investors in early stage biotechnology companies, today announced that it has invested \$500,000 in Midway Pharmaceuticals, a recently founded company working to develop novel non-antibiotic therapies for a range of gastrointestinal diseases (GI) including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

"One of the most important roles BioAdvance plays is to be the first institutional investor in promising new life sciences companies," said Barbara S. Schilberg, CEO and managing director at BioAdvance. "With its strong scientific platform and experienced CEO, Midway represents another great example of the unique investment opportunities emerging in this region."

Founded in 2005 and based in Spring House, PA, Midway Pharmaceuticals is a development-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on creating proprietary drugs for the treatment of bacteria-mediated GI diseases including Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis (UC), and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). The company has developed a proprietary compound, the polymer MDY-1001, as an orally delivered and non-systemically absorbed therapeutic to inhibit the pathogenic behavior of bacteria in the GI tract. Midway's MDY-1001 has the potential to create non-antibiotic, non-immunosuppressive therapies to treat a wide range of GI disorders.

"There are now only limited treatment options for patients with many serious GI disorders including Crohn's disease, UC and IBS, representing a major unmet need in medicine. Our approach based on polymers has the potential to represent a significant advance in therapy for millions of patients around

the world. This important investment funding positions Midway to rapidly advance our early-stage research to the next levels," said Rifat Pamukcu, M.D., chief executive officer of Midway Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Pamukcu was formerly founder and chief scientific officer of Cell Pathways, Inc., where he directed that company's basic science, preclinical drug development, clinical research and regulatory programs.

This BioAdvance funding will be used to complete proof-of-concept and safety tests measuring the effects of MDY-1001. Successful completion of pre-clinical testing will position Midway to take advantage of new financing options to complete the necessary preclinical research and advance to IND filing.

"Midway is an exciting opportunity for BioAdvance to help launch a new company focused in a medically and commercially important space," said Dr. Gary Kurtzman, COO and managing director at BioAdvance. "It also presents the opportunity to retain a talented and successful biotech entrepreneur in the region. We look forward to working closely with Rif to make Midway a success."

About Midway

Midway Pharmaceuticals is a development-stage biopharmaceutical company based in Spring House, PA. This technology platform is expected to generate future innovative cytoprotective and anti-inflammatory GI drugs. The Company's proprietary compound has the potential to be an effective treatment for inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), which includes Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (UC), irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and other infectious GI diseases. The Company's technology is based on discoveries at the University of Chicago regarding the relationship between the GI tract and GI bacterial flora, and how that relationship influences the onset and persistence of GI diseases.

About BioAdvance

As part of a \$2 billion initiative of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the life sciences, BioAdvance received \$33.8 million to accelerate the creation of life sciences jobs and businesses in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Since its inception in 2002, BioAdvance has committed over \$10.5 million of its Greenhouse Fund to 30 enterprises and research projects. Their technologies and products cover an array of innovations - from powerful new diagnostics to medical devices and promising therapies for a variety of disabling and life threatening conditions including cancer, Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration, obesity, drug resistant infections, GI disorders, and addiction. For more information on BioAdvance and its portfolio companies, please visit www.bioadvance.com.

Contacts

BioAdvance

Ellen Semple, 215-966-6207

esemple@bioadvance.com

or

Media:

Berry Public Relations

Bill Berry, 212-253-8881

bberry@berrypr.com