Mebias Discovery Initiates a Phase I Clinical Trial of MEB-1170, a Novel Analgesic Drug Candidate for the Treatment of Pain and Prevention of Opioid Use Disorder

Preclinical Data Demonstrates MEB–1170 Lacks Adverse Effects of Opioids Including Respiratory Depression and Opioid Abuse Potential

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 29, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- *Mebias Discovery Inc.*, a biotechnology company focused on drug discovery targeting G-protein coupled receptors, today announces its Investigational New Drug, MEB-1170, has entered Phase I human clinical studies.

Mebias developed a drug discovery platform (^{19}*Fluid*) that efficiently generates drug candidates devoid of dangerous on–target adverse effects associated with many currently marketed drugs targeting G–protein coupled receptors. ^{19}*Fluid* was used to develop MEB–1170 which targets the mu-opioid receptor, a well validated target for pain, but avoids the on-target side effects associated with currently marketed opioid drugs. In preclinical models, MEB–1170 is as effective as morphine and oxycodone in several pain models, does not impact respiratory function, does not require dose escalation, does not cause sedation or constipation, and shows no evidence of abuse liability. Together, these studies show the potential of MEB–1170 to treat pain without opioid side effects.

The first-in-human study of MEB–1170 will evaluate single–ascending and multiple–ascending doses in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in healthy volunteers. In addition, preliminary assessments of efficacy and respiratory depression will be conducted with the cold pressor test and capnography.

"The importance of our goal, to replace existing opioid therapy with safe and effective new analgesics that avoid addiction liability as well as other serious opioid side effects, cannot be overstated." — Scott Reines, M.D., Ph.D., *Mebias*' Chief Medical Officer.

About the Opioid Crisis

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, opioid–related overdose deaths have been steadily increasing since 2010 with a staggering 68,630 deaths in 2020. (https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates).

Mebias Discovery Funding

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