

Press Release

ProStrakan Group plc

ProStrakan Announces US Co-Promotion Agreement for Oncology Support Product, Gelclair

Galashiels, Scotland, 18 March 2009: ProStrakan Group plc, the international specialty pharmaceutical company, today announces that it has signed an exclusive co-promotion agreement in the United States with EKR Therapeutics Inc. (“EKR”) for Gelclair[®], a mouth gel indicated for the management and relief of pain associated with Oral Mucositis (OM) which can be experienced by cancer patients as a side effect of chemotherapy or radiation to the head and neck. Gelclair was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in late 2001 and EKR obtained North American rights to the product in 2006 from Helsinn* Healthcare SA of Switzerland.

ProStrakan plans to market this oncology support product alongside Sancuso[®], its transdermal patch for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) in patients receiving chemotherapy for up to five consecutive days. Sancuso received approval from the FDA in September 2008.

Under the terms of the three-year, renewable agreement with EKR, ProStrakan will receive undisclosed payments based on the volume of packs of Gelclair that are sold in the US from May 2009.

Every year in the US, 400,000+ patients suffer from OM⁽¹⁾ – inflammation and ulceration of the mucous membrane of the mouth that can be experienced by cancer patients as a side effect of chemotherapy or radiation to the head and neck ⁽²⁾. OM occurs in approximately 40% of patients receiving standard dose chemotherapy⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾ and this incidence increases to 80% in patients receiving high dose therapy⁽²⁾.

The clinical effects of OM can include: severe pain; difficulty in eating, drinking, swallowing and speaking. These may, in turn, result in poor nutrition, weight loss, deterioration in quality of life and the delay, reduction or cessation of chemotherapy (1)(3)(5)(6).

Gelclair is an FDA-approved medical device in the form of a dilutable gel, packaged in 15ml sachets. Patients mix the product with water then rinse the Gelclair solution around the mouth at least one hour before eating or drinking. Gelclair works by forming a barrier that protects the nerve endings that cause pain. Study results have shown that Gelclair significantly reduces OM pain for five to seven hours after administration(7).

ProStrakan will offer Gelclair as a second detail to oncologists and oncology nurses across the US through its 75-strong US sales force, which is already promoting Sancuso.

Commenting on the addition of Gelclair to ProStrakan's US product range, ProStrakan's Chief Executive, Dr Wilson Totten, said:

"Gelclair and Sancuso are highly complementary. The addition of Gelclair to our US product range presents ProStrakan with an excellent opportunity to capitalise on the access that Sancuso has created for our team to oncologists and oncology nurses across the US. We hope that in this way we can help to improve the quality of life for more chemotherapy patients."

Ends

For more information on this announcement, please contact:

ProStrakan Corporate +44 (0)1896 664000
Dr Wilson Totten, Chief Executive
Paul Garvey, Chief Financial Officer
Callum Spreng, Corporate Communications

Financial Dynamics +44 (0)20 7831 3113
David Yates / Ben Brewerton

Trout Group (for US investor enquiries)
Gitanjali Jain +1 (646) 378-2949

ProStrakan

ProStrakan Group plc is a rapidly growing specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the development and commercialisation of prescription medicines for the treatment of unmet therapeutic needs in major markets.

ProStrakan's head office is situated in Galashiels in Scotland. The company's development capabilities are centred on Galashiels and Bedminster, New Jersey, USA. Sales and marketing of ProStrakan's portfolio of products are handled by commercial subsidiaries in the UK, US, France, Germany, Spain and other EU countries.
www.prostrakan.com

* Gelclair® is a registered trademark of Helsinn Healthcare SA, Lugano, Switzerland

References:

1. ccc_mouth_pain.pdf (application/pdf Object) [Internet]. [cited 2009 Mar 9] Available from: http://www.cancercare.org/pdf/booklets/ccc_mouth_pain.pdf
2. Lalla RV, Sonis ST, Peterson DE. Management of oral mucositis in patients who have cancer. *Dent. Clin. North Am.* 2008; 52(1): 61-77, viii.
3. Köstler WJ, Hejna M, Wenzel C, Zielinski CC. Oral mucositis complicating chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy: options for prevention and treatment. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2001 ; 51(5):290-315.
4. Gibson RJ, Bowen JM, Keefe DMK. Technological advances in mucositis research: new insights and new issues. *Cancer Treat Rev.* 2008; 34(5): 476-82.
5. Bellm LA, Epstein JB, Rose-Ped A, Martin P, Fuchs HJ. Patient reports of complications of bone marrow transplantation. *Support Care Cancer.* 2000; 8(1): 33-9.
6. D'Hondt L, Lonchey C, Andre, M, Canon, JL C. Oral mucositis induced by anticancer treatments: physiopathology and treatments. *Ther Clin Risk Manag.* 2006;2(2): 159–168.
7. Innocenti M, Moscatelli G, Lopez S. Efficacy of gelclair in reducing pain in palliative care patients with oral lesions: preliminary findings from an open pilot study. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management.* 2002; 24(5): 456-7.