PRESS RELEASE

APEPTICO presents significant research results of its inhalation therapy for prevention and treatment of Oedematous Respiratory Failure at the 2011 Annual Congress of the European Respiratory Society

09th September, 2011, Vienna, Austria: APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH, a biotechnology company developing novel peptide-based drugs for the treatment of life threatening lung diseases today announced that it will present significant research results of its inhalation therapy for prevention and treatment of Oedematous Respiratory Failure at the 2011 Annual Congress of the European Respiratory Society.

At the 2011 Annual Congress of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) in Amsterdam (The Netherlands, September 24th to 28th 2011), APEPTICO will present significant research results of its inhalation therapy for prevention and treatment of Oedematous Respiratory Failure to the scientific community. The scientific advisory board of the ERS has appointed in total three contributions of APEPTICO to be presented at this major event. In the oral presentation entitled "Characterisation of TNF-alpha lectin-like domain derived peptides associated with improved alveolar fluid clearance in pulmonary oedema" APEPTICO's strategy for design and pharmacodynamic assessment of state-of-the-art lung ENaC agonists will be presented. Professor Dr. Rudolf Lucas will give a talk entitled "The lectin-like domain of TNF reduces lung dysfunction in experimental Influenza A virus infection" and researchers of APEPTICO will present additional scientific findings in "Potential synergism of drugs with anti-viral and pulmonary oedema clearance activity may be advantageous for influenza patients".

APEPTICO develops synthetic peptide drugs, based on the structural motif of the lectin-like domain of human tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha), which activate the pulmonary epithelial sodium ion channel (ENaC) and thus accelerate pulmonary oedema reabsorption in life-threatening conditions such as pneumonia, influenza virus lung infection and Acute Lung Injury / Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome.

APEPTICO's lead peptide AP301 is currently subject to a Phase I clinical study in the Vienna General Hospital.

The ERS Congress is the largest international conference specialising in pulmonary medicine. It provides a unique forum where scientists and medical professionals from around the world have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and information in the field of respiratory medicine. The scientific programme of the ERS Congress aims to provide a perfect balance between clinical education and the latest scientific developments. The ERS Congress highlights key issues in the diagnosis, management and treatment of respiratory diseases, giving clinicians and research scientists the opportunity to report the latest findings in basic, clinical and population research.

Dr. Bernhard Fischer, CEO of APEPTICO commented: "I am pleased that the scientific organising committee of the ERS Annual Congress is giving us the opportunity to present the progress of our drug development programme - the development of new medicines for prevention and treatment of Oedematous Respiratory Failure. Today no specific drug treatment exists for patients suffering from hyper-permeability-caused lung oedema."

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Notes to Editors:

About APEPTICO GmbH

APEPTICO is a privately-held biotechnology company based in Austria, developing peptide-based products targeting chronic and life-threatening diseases. The peptide molecules correspond to validated, pharmacodynamic active structures and domains of well-known proteins and biopharmaceuticals. By concentrating on synthetically produced protein structures APEPTICO avoids any risk of transmitting microbial and viral infections. Development cost and time to market are significantly reduced if compared to the recombinant development process of biomolecules. APEPTICO's development platform PEPBASE^{TM} combines structural, functional and clinical data from relevant biopharmaceuticals and well-characterised proteins. Based on preclinical and clinical data, including adverse reactions, risk factors and contraindications to be circumvented and supported by structural, biochemical and physicochemical data, for each relevant protein a specific profile is established that links biological & functional properties with discrete structural elements.

About the AP301 peptide family

AP301 and derived peptides are synthetic molecules whose structures are based on the lectin-like domain of human Tumour Necrosis Factor alpha. AP301 peptides are water soluble and can be administered into the lung by oral inhalation. Formulated AP301 is easily nebulised and the resulting aerosol is composed of peptide/water droplets of diameter 4 µm or less. AP301 and derived peptides are designed for activation of the pulmonary epithelial sodium channel (ENaC). Activation of ENaC by AP301 peptides results an accelerated oedema clearance in the airspace. Comprehensive research and development conducted by APEPTICO has demonstrated that AP301 peptides are effective in animal models of pulmonary permeability oedema, pneumonia, influenza virus lung infection, Acute Lung Injury / Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and lung transplantation. AP301 has received Orphan Drug Designation by the EMA and by the FDA for various indications. Currently, AP301 is subject to a Phase I clinical study in the General Hospital in Vienna.

Oedematous Respiratory Failure

Respiratory failure occurs when the respiratory system fails in oxygenation and/or carbon dioxide elimination. Oedematous Respiratory Failure is caused by a massive and life-threatening pulmonary oedema. Pulmonary oedema occurs when fluid leaks from the pulmonary capillary network into the lung interstitium and alveoli. There are many possible causes of lung oedema, such as inhaling high concentrations of smoke, toxins, or oxygen; severe burns; blood infections; lung infections; or trauma to other parts of the body. Acute Lung Injury (ALI) and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) are catastrophic forms of lung oedema.

Lungs contain alveoli, which are tiny air sacs where the oxygen is passed into the blood. During lung oedema, blood and fluid begin to leak into the alveoli. When this happens, oxygen cannot enter the alveoli, which means oxygen no longer passes into the blood. Because the lungs are inflamed and filled with fluid, the patient finds it increasingly difficult to breathe. The mortality rate of patients with pulmonary oedema in ALI/ARDS is 30% to 60% within 2 to 4 weeks.

Currently, no specific drug treatment exists for patients suffering from hyper-permeability-caused lung oedema.

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