PBS Frontiers of Medicine Features Neurocrine's NBI-3001 For Malignant Brain Tumors

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SAN DIEGO, Oct. 14 /PRNewswire/ -- Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: NBIX) today announced that the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) will feature Neurocrine's IL-4 Fusion Toxin in the next Frontiers of Medicine series entitled IL-4 Fusion Toxin: Potential New Treatment for Brain Tumors. The program features interviews with Neurocrine as well as with the inventors of the IL-4 Fusion Toxin technology, Dr. Raj Puri from the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Drs. Ira Pastan and Robert Kreitman from the Laboratory of Molecular Biology of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Neurocrine Biosciences licensed exclusive worldwide rights to IL-4 Fusion Toxin from the FDA and NIH in 1998.

Neurocrine also recently announced that the FDA has granted fast track designation to the Company's IL-4 Fusion Toxin compound (NBI-3001). In addition, Dr. Friedrich Weber, principal investigator for the European Phase II clinical program for NBI-3001, reported preliminary results from the ongoing Phase II clinical trial at The 13th International Conference on Brain Tumor Research and Therapy. Dr. Weber reported that patient MRI scans displayed dramatic changes suggestive of tumor necrosis (cell death), indicating that NBI 3001 has a robust anti-tumor effect.

The Company is currently conducting a Phase II trial to assess safety and determine the maximum tolerated dose (MTD). To date, 22 patients have been treated, and, based on preliminary data, the product appears to be well tolerated and the MTD has been determined. The ongoing Phase II clinical trial is expected to bridge into the Phase III pivotal trial in the first half of the year 2000. In addition, the Company and its collaborators at the FDA and NIH are conducting preclinical studies designed to assess NBI-3001 for the treatment of systemic forms of cancer such as colon, breast, prostrate, kidney cancers and melanoma.

The Frontiers of Medicine program featuring IL-4 Fusion Toxin is listed as show #206. Viewers should contact their regional PBS stations for local listings or visit their website at www.frontiersofmedicine.com.

Neurocrine Biosciences is a leading neuroscience company focused on the discovery and development of novel therapeutics for neuropsychiatric, neuroinflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases and disorders. The Company's neuroscience, endocrine and immunology disciplines provide a unique biological understanding of the molecular interaction between central nervous, immune and endocrine systems for the development of therapeutic interventions for anxiety, depression, Alzheimer's disease, insomnia, stroke, malignant brain tumors, multiple sclerosis, obesity and diabetes.

Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. news releases are available free of charge though PR Newswire's Company News On-Call fax service. For a menu of Neurocrine's previous releases, or to receive a specific release via fax call: (800) 758-5804, ext. 604138, or use the Internet via http://www.prnewswire.com.

In addition to historical facts, this press release contains forward looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward looking statements are risks and uncertainties associated with Neurocrine's research and development programs and business and finances including, but not limited to, risks and uncertainties associated with, or arising out of, drug discovery, pre-clinical and clinical development of products including risk that research may not generate development candidates, development candidates will not successfully proceed through early clinical trials or that in later stage clinical trials will not show that they are effective in treating humans; determinations by regulatory and governmental authorities; changes in relationships with strategic partners and dependence upon strategic partners for performance of clinical and commercialization activities under collaborative agreements including potential for any collaboration agreement to be terminated without any product success; uncertainties relating to patent protection and intellectual property rights of third parties; impact of competitive products and technological changes; availability of capital and cost of capital; and other material risks. A more complete description of these risks can be found in the Company's Form 10K for the year ended December 31, 1998 and the current form 10Q each of which should be read before making any investment in Neurocrine common stock. Neurocrine undertakes no obligation to update the statements contained in this press release after the date hereof.
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