



Vantia Therapeutics reveals structure of its novel small molecule treatment for dysmenorrhoea, VA111913, at the ACS National Meeting

Southampton, UK, 26th March 2010 – Vantia Therapeutics, a company developing novel small molecule drugs targeting large under served medical markets, today announced that it revealed the structure of drug candidate VA111913 for the first time at the American Chemical Society's (ACS) National Meeting in San Francisco, USA this week. The structure was presented as part of an oral session at the meeting and also chosen by ACS to be highlighted in a press conference at the event.

VA111913 was discovered by Vantia and is a potential new treatment for painful periods, or dysmenorrhoea, a condition that affects millions of women. Dysmenorrhoea is frequently debilitating and psychologically taxing for many women and is one of the leading causes of absenteeism from work and school.

Period pains are caused by abnormal contractions of the uterus during menstruation. VA111913 has been shown to reduce excessive contraction of smooth muscle, such as that found in the uterus wall. By targeting receptors of a hormone called vasopressin, it is hoped that VA111913 will prove effective in controlling the contractions that cause period pain.

Vantia discovered VA111913 by screening its library of compounds and then modified the compound to make sure it could be taken as a pill (making any future treatment more convenient), minimise the chances of side effects, and also make it more potent in interacting with the relevant vasopressin 1a receptors in the uterus wall. The drug has been recently patented and represents a novel structural class of compounds.

In its first trials in women, Vantia showed VA111913 to be safe and well tolerated and Phase II trials are currently underway in Europe and the US to evaluate how well it works to control pain and other symptoms of dysmenorrhoea. Results from this trial are expected in the second half of 2010 and if results from this and further studies are successful the drug could be available in four years.

Andrew Crockett, VP Business Development, said: "I am very pleased that ACS has chosen to highlight VA111913 at their National Meeting this year. The molecule is currently in Phase II trials and having already seen some promising data from previous studies, I'm looking forward with great optimism to announcing the full results of the trial later this year."



For details of the ACS National Meeting visit <http://bit.ly/9CUy6p> and to view the ACS press conference visit <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/5663619>

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Notes to Editors

About Vantia Therapeutics:

Vantia Therapeutics is an emerging pharmaceutical company developing novel, small molecule drugs targeting large, underserved medical markets. Its rapidly advancing clinical pipeline includes VA106483 for nocturia in BPH patients and VA111913 for dysmenorrhoea, product candidates which directly target conditions that together affect many millions of people, are poorly treated and represent billion dollar markets. Vantia was spun out from Ferring Research Ltd in 2008 and its pipeline is driven by the proven small molecule drug discovery and development capabilities of that unit and Vantia's experienced management team. Vantia's strategy is to develop candidates to Phase II proof-of-concept and then commercialise through partnerships. The Company is well-funded and backed by specialist life science investors MVM Life Science Partners, SV Life Sciences and Novo A/S.

www.vantiatherapeutics.com.

About VA111913 and dysmenorrhoea:

VA111913 is an oral small molecule drug candidate in Phase II clinical development for prevention and treatment of dysmenorrhoea, a condition characterized by abnormal contractions of the uterus during menstruation causing severe pain. Dysmenorrhoea is associated with raised vasopressin levels. VA111913 acts by blocking vasopressin 1a receptors in smooth muscle in the uterus wall. VA111913 has been demonstrated in preclinical studies to normalise smooth muscle contraction in response to vasopressin, thereby offering the potential for it to be the first drug that directly targets the cause of this condition in the uterus.



A Phase I trial with VA111913 has been completed and a Phase II proof of concept study began in H2 2009. This is due to complete by H2 2010.

Dysmenorrhoea affects a large number of women for whom there are currently no targeted therapies; treatments that are in common use however include over-the-counter painkillers (e.g. ibuprofen) or oral contraceptives used 'off-label'. These current therapies are not completely effective for all women and sometimes do not provide satisfactory relief of symptoms, particularly in women with more severe pain. It is estimated that the market opportunity for a targeted drug for the prophylaxis and treatment of dysmenorrhoea is at least \$1 billion per year.