



Avigen to Present at Banff 2007: Pharmacology and Therapeutics Conference

Symposium Session entitled "Novel Pain Pathways and Analgesic Drug Development"

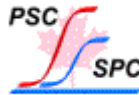
On Wednesday, March 7, 2007, Kirk W. Johnson, Ph.D., Avigen's V.P. for Research & Development, will be presenting at the Banff 2007 Pharmacology and Therapeutics Conference. Dr. Johnson's oral presentation is entitled "AV411: An Oral Glial Attenuator for Neuropathic Pain and Other Indications."

Participating Societies are:

Western Pharmacology Society



Pharmacology Society of Canada



Canadian Society of Clinical Pharmacology



Swiss Society of Pharmacology & Toxicology



Dr. Kirk Johnson's abstract:

AV411: An Oral Glial Attenuator for Neuropathic Pain and Other Indications

Kirk W. Johnson, PhD. V.P. Research & Development, Avigen, Inc.

Identification and development of new drug candidates with novel mechanisms of action may provide needed advances in therapeutic options for neuropathic pain. One such approach involves attenuation of activated glial cells which have been recognized as key contributors to the syndrome. We identified, and began developing, AV411 for neuropathic pain based on several characteristics including good oral human pharmacokinetics, an encouraging clinical track record in an unrelated indication, and *in vitro* glial cell attenuation. Preclinically, AV411 tested in nerve ligation rat models yielded dose-related and durable attenuation of mechanical allodynia. Interestingly, AV411 also resolved allodynia in taxol-induced rat neuropathy and has been shown to reduce morphine-related glial activation and improve morphine tolerance and opioid withdrawal in rats. Initial clinical trial results support continued investigation of AV411 as a new drug candidate for serious neurological syndromes including neuropathic pain.

About Avigen

Avigen is a biopharmaceutical company focused on unique small molecule therapeutics and biologics to treat serious neurological disorders, including neuropathic pain and neuromuscular spasm and spasticity. Avigen's strategy is to complete the requirements of clinical development for each of the candidates in its product pipeline, and continue to look for opportunities to expand its pipeline through a combination of internal research, acquisitions, and in-licensing, with the goal of becoming a fully integrated commercial biopharmaceutical company committed to its small molecule and biologics neurology products. The company currently has in development AV650 for neuromuscular spasm and spasticity and AV411 for neuropathic pain. Additionally, the company has in development a compound for the treatment of hemophilia A and B, AV513. For more information about Avigen, consult the company's website at <http://www.avigen.com>.

Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act

This press release contains forward-looking statements, which include, among others, statements relating to Avigen's intention of completing the requirements of clinical development for each of the candidates in its product pipeline; looking for opportunities to expand its pipeline through a combination of internal research, acquisitions, and in-licensing; and becoming a fully integrated commercial biopharmaceutical company. These statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in these forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include those detailed in reports filed by Avigen with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Avigen's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2006, under the caption "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of Part 2 of that report, which was filed with the SEC on November 2, 2006.

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