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**Veterinary Dermatology to publish findings from AB Science's successful phase 3, controlled clinical trial of masitinib in the treatment of canine atopic dermatitis**

**AB Science SA** (NYSE Euronext - FR0010557264 - AB), a pharmaceutical company specializing in the research, development and commercialization of protein kinase inhibitors (PKIs), announces official acceptance from the journal *Veterinary Dermatology* to publish findings from its phase 3 clinical trial of masitinib in the treatment of canine atopic dermatitis. *Veterinary Dermatology*, the leading journal in this field of research, will publish the paper entitled '*Masitinib decreases signs of canine atopic dermatitis: a multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial*' in the coming weeks.

This was a 12-week, prospective, multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, pivotal phase 3 study to compare efficacy and safety of masitinib at 12.5 mg/kg/day to a control, in the treatment of canine atopic dermatitis. Atopic dermatitis is a chronic, pruritic inflammatory skin disease. Its severity can range from an annoyance in the form of mild itching through to debilitating extensive lesion coverage that has a profoundly negative impact on the quality-of-life. Beyond the already developed therapeutic strategies, there exists an unmet medical need to identify alternative treatments for canine atopic dermatitis that can demonstrate high efficacy over time in monotherapy, exploit novel therapeutic targets for more effective combination therapies or treatment of dogs resistant to current therapies, and minimize long-term toxicity.

Professor Olivier Hermine, President of the scientific committee of AB Science commented: «*Canine atopic dermatitis is the first non-oncological veterinary application for masitinib, although this is certainly not a case of a chemotherapeutic agent being applied outside of its 'designated' field of use. In fact, it is a common misnomer to describe masitinib as a chemotherapeutic agent because unlike cytotoxic chemotherapies that inhibit replication of all cells, including healthy cells, masitinib is a targeted therapy. Moreover, depending on which kinases are targeted, tyrosine kinase inhibitors such as masitinib are equally well-suited for the treatment of non-oncology diseases, as has been demonstrated by numerous human clinical trials with masitinib* ».

The findings presented in this publication proved masitinib to be an effective and mostly well tolerated treatment for canine atopic dermatitis. A positive response to masitinib was evident for treatment-naïve dogs, dogs resistant to ciclosporin and/or corticosteroids, and dogs with severe pruritus, the latter two groups representing populations with high unmet medical need. It was concluded therefore, that masitinib could provide an important new tool in the veterinarian's armamentarium for effective treatment of canine atopic dermatitis.

Alain Moussy, Chairman and CEO of AB Science declared: «This publication represents an important milestone in the masitinib veterinary development program in the treatment of canine atopic dermatitis, in so much as it adds a stamp of approval from the relevant scientific community. *Veterinary Dermatology* is the leading journal in the field, for which the peer-review process is correspondingly rigorous. »

This article will soon be available electronically from *Veterinary Dermatology's* website. Publication in the paper version scheduled for the coming months. Preliminary results have already been presented at the 24th Annual Congress of the ECVD-ESVD, 23-25 September 2010, Firenze, Italy, the abstract from which was published in issue 2010, 21:351 of *Veterinary Dermatology*:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-3164.2010.00930.x/abstract>

Full summaries of all masitinib-related veterinary publications are presented in the brochure '*Masitinib Scientific Data for Veterinary Medicine*' (available upon request; [contact@ab-science.com](mailto:contact@ab-science.com)).

To read more about publications of masitinib in human and veterinary medicine, visit [www.ab-science.com](http://www.ab-science.com).

Masitinib was the first ever approved anticancer drug in veterinary medicine, receiving approval from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) under the trade name Masivet®. Masitinib has also recently become obtainable in the United States under the trade name Kinavet® CA-1, having received conditional approval in December 2010 from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatment of recurrent or nonresectable Grade II and Grade II cutaneous mast cell tumors in dogs that have not previously received radiotherapy and/or chemotherapy except corticosteroids. AB Science is developing masitinib in veterinary medicine in oncology, including several studies to further investigate masitinib's potential as a chemosensitizer, as well as in non oncology diseases, such as canine atopic dermatitis or asthma in cats. A summary of masitinib's veterinary clinical development program is provided below (note that this list of indications reflects the development program of masitinib in veterinary medicine and should not be interpreted as a list of indications for which masitinib has demonstrated efficacy).

Besides using the animal health segment as a source of revenues to finance its clinical development program in human medicine, AB Science is also using veterinary medicine as a platform to discover new indications for its lead compound masitinib and translate this use into human medicine. The first application of this strategy was made recently (press release dated Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010) with the decision to initiate a phase 3 study in metastatic melanoma expressing JM mutation of c-Kit. This decision was facilitated by evidence showing that masitinib could generate tumor response in animal with melanoma.

Masitinib is being developed for several oncology and immune-mediate indications in veterinary medicine.

Targets	Action	Therapeutic potential	
<b>c-Kit</b>	Inhibition of proto-oncogenic targets	MCT*	Histiocytic sarcoma <sup>†</sup>
<b>PDGFR</b>		T-cell lymphoma*	Osteosarcoma (post amputation) <sup>†</sup>
<b>FAK pathway</b>	Potentiation of chemotherapeutic agents	Melanoma** <sup>†</sup>	Bladder cancer <sup>†</sup>
<b>Lyn/FAK</b>		Hemangiosarcoma <sup>†</sup>	Mammary tumors <sup>†</sup>
<b>Mast Cells via</b>	Inhibition of mast cell activation	Atopic dermatitis*	Asthma*
<b>KIT / Lyn</b>		Arthritis*	Inflammatory Bowel Disease*

\* Masitinib administered as monotherapy. † Masitinib administered in combination with standard chemotherapy.

#### About masitinib

Masitinib is a new orally administered tyrosine kinase inhibitor that targets mast cells, important cells for immunity, as well as a limited number of kinases that play key roles in various cancers. Owing to its novel mechanism of action, masitinib can be developed in a large number of conditions in oncology, in inflammatory diseases and in certain diseases of the central nervous system. Through its activity of inhibiting certain kinases that are essential in some oncogenic processes, masitinib may have an effect on tumor regression, alone or in combination with chemotherapy.

Through its activity on the mast cell and certain kinases essential to the activation of the inflammatory cells and fibrosing tissue remodeling, masitinib can have an effect on the symptoms associated with some inflammatory and central nervous system diseases.

#### **About AB Science**

Founded in 2001, AB Science is a pharmaceutical company specializing in the research, development and commercialization of protein kinase inhibitors (PKIs), a new class of targeted molecules whose action is to modify signaling pathways within cells. Through these PKIs, the Company targets diseases with high unmet medical needs (cancer, inflammatory diseases and central nervous system diseases), in both human and veterinary medicines. AB Science has developed its own portfolio of molecules including masitinib, which has already been registered in veterinary medicine in Europe and in the USA, and is pursuing nine phase 3 studies in human medicine, including five studies on-going in pancreatic cancer, GIST, in metastatic melanoma expressing JM mutation of c-Kit, in mastocytosis, and severe persistent asthma.

Further information is available on AB Science's website: [www.ab-science.com](http://www.ab-science.com)

*This document contains prospective information. No guarantee can be given as for the realization of these forecasts, which are subject to those risks described in documents deposited by the Company to the Authority of the financial markets, including trends of the economic conjuncture, the financial markets and the markets on which AB Science is present.*

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