

## **ABIVAX receives French regulatory Approval to Begin Clinical Trial of ABX464 in Ulcerative Colitis**

Initiating Phase 2a study in fourth quarter of 2017

**Paris, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 8 a.m. CEST** – ABIVAX (Euronext Paris: FR0012333284 – ABVX), an innovative biotechnology company targeting the immune system to eliminate viral diseases using its unique antiviral technology platform, today announced that the French National Regulatory Authority (ANSM) has approved the ABX464-101 Phase 2a “Proof-of-Concept” study of its lead product candidate ABX464 in patients with moderate to severe active ulcerative colitis

Professor Hartmut J. Ehrlich, M.D., CEO of ABIVAX, said: *“Preclinical data published in Nature Scientific Reports<sup>1</sup> show ABX464 dampened intestinal inflammation by triggering IL-22 production. As a result, we believe there is significant potential for the compound to be effective in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). We are looking forward to initiating this study in the fourth quarter of 2017 and expect top-line data in the second half of 2018.”*

ABX464-101 is a Phase 2a study aimed at evaluating the safety and efficacy of ABX464 in 30 patients with ulcerative colitis who have failed or are intolerant to immunomodulators, anti-TNF $\alpha$ , vedolizumab and/or corticosteroids. Patients will be randomized to receive either ABX464 50mg or placebo given once daily for eight weeks. Exploratory objectives include assessing the clinical remission and mucosal healing of the ulcerative colitis lesions. This clinical study will be conducted in seven European countries: France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Spain. Regulatory and ethics committee approvals are being sought in all these countries.

Professor Severine Vermeire, M.D., Department of Gastroenterology - University Hospitals Leuven, Departmental Chair Chronic Diseases, Metabolism & Ageing, KU Leuven, Belgium and principal investigator of the study commented: *“We are looking forward to the start of this study, as ulcerative colitis still carries a large unmet medical need. Clinical research with new drug candidates is greatly needed to further improve treatments.”*

Jean-Marc Steens, M.D., chief medical officer of ABIVAX added: *“This first clinical study with ABX464 in ulcerative colitis is a critical step to demonstrate the clinical relevance of the anti-inflammatory properties of ABX464. This demonstration may have clinical implications not only for patients with IBD, but also for patients with HIV who typically suffer from complications related to inflammation around the viral reservoirs.”*

### **About ABIVAX** ([www.abivax.com](http://www.abivax.com))

ABIVAX is an innovative biotechnology company focused on targeting the immune system to eliminate viral disease. ABIVAX leverages three technology platforms for drug discovery: an anti-viral, an immune enhancement, and a polyclonal antibody platform. ABX464, its most advanced compound, is currently in Phase 2 clinical trials for providing a functional cure for patients with HIV/AIDS. It is a first-in-class oral small anti-viral molecule which blocks HIV replication through a unique mechanism of action and also has a strong anti-inflammatory effect. In addition, ABIVAX is advancing a clinical stage immune enhancer as well as multiple preclinical candidates against additional viral targets (e.g. Ebola, Dengue, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza), and several of these compounds are planned to enter

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<sup>1</sup> Please find the Nature Scientific Reports article using the following link:  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-04071-3>



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clinical development within the next 18 months. ABIVAX is listed on Euronext compartment B (ISIN: FR0012333284 – Mnémo: ABVX).

More information on the company is available at [www.abivax.com](http://www.abivax.com).

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## Contacts

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|---|---|
| <b>ABIVAX</b><br><b>Finance</b><br>Didier Blondel<br><a href="mailto:didier.blondel@abivax.com">didier.blondel@abivax.com</a><br>+33 1 53 83 08 41                                  | <b>Investors</b><br><b>LifeSci Advisors</b><br>Chris Maggos<br><a href="mailto:chris@lifesciadvisors.com">chris@lifesciadvisors.com</a><br>+41 79 367 6254                            |
| <b>French Media</b><br><b>ALIZE RP</b><br>Caroline Carmagnol/Margaux Pronost<br><a href="mailto:abivax@alizerp.com">abivax@alizerp.com</a><br>+33 6 64 18 99 59 / +33 1 44 54 36 65 | <b>US Media</b><br><b>LifeSci Public Relations</b><br>Matt Middleman, M.D.<br><a href="mailto:matt@lifescipublicrelations.com">matt@lifescipublicrelations.com</a><br>+1 646 627 8384 |