



FemmePharma
GLOBAL HEALTHCARE, INC.

FEMMEPHARMA, INC. and EMORY UNIVERSITY TEAM TO IDENTIFY TOPICAL MICROBICIDES FOR DRUG DEVELOPMENT

February 9, 2004 - WAYNE, PA - FemmePharma, Inc., a prescription pharmaceutical company dedicated to developing drugs for diseases and disorders disproportionately affecting women, has initiated a collaboration with Emory University to study a library of molecules and their respective activity against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The intention of the collaboration is to identify lead candidates for the drug development process.

"This new collaboration with FemmePharma is of critical importance in developing these microbicides as products for protection against HIV," said Richard W. Compans, Ph.D., principal investigator of the Emory topical microbicide program project grant from NIH, and Professor and Chair of the department of Microbiology and Immunology.

A collaborative group including researchers from Emory, Georgia State University, and Louisiana State University has been studying the ability of porphyrins and related compounds to inhibit infection by HIV since 1999. This project has been supported by NIH for the last four years, and the group has shown that several of the compounds tested are indeed virucidal, i.e., they inactivate infectivity of cell-free HIV virions. This virucidal activity is at least in part due to interactions with the HIV envelope protein, which is responsible for initiating viral infection. The new collaboration with FemmePharma will advance these active compounds to clinical trials. Compounds will first be synthesized, purified, and characterized in biological studies, and the activity of the lead compounds against infectious HIV-1 virions will be determined. Effective compounds will be screened using animal models prior to formulation and human testing by FemmePharma.

Topical vaginal microbicides to decrease the transmission of HIV infection are an important adjuvant in the arsenal to reduce heterosexual transmission of HIV. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 65 million people worldwide have been infected with HIV since the start of the global epidemic. At the end of 2002, approximately 42 million were living with HIV/AIDs. Women's rate of infection of HIV is on the rise, according to the CDC. At the end of 2002, women made up approximately half of the worldwide population living with HIV/AIDs.

Correct use of a condom during sexual intercourse is a major means of prevention of the HIV virus and other STDs. Women, however, often lack other options when it comes to their protection against STDs. Personal, social and cultural factors can and do interfere with a woman's ability to have her partner use a condom. A safe and effective vaginal microbicide will give a woman the control she needs over her health - with or without the consent or knowledge of her partner.

■ 37 West Avenue • Second Floor
■ Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087
■ Tel: 610.995.0801
■ Fax: 610.995.0825

"FemmePharma is proud to be working with Emory University and these other outstanding organizations in this critical arena of vaginal microbicides. We look forward to the development process and hope to ultimately deliver a difference to women as they face choices regarding protection against HIV and STDs," said Gerianne Tringali DiPiano, President and CEO of FemmePharma, Inc.

About FemmePharma

FemmePharma was founded by Gerianne Tringali DiPiano in 1996 to target needs within the estimated \$35 billion women's healthcare pharmaceutical market. The company is in a Phase III trial for its first drug, a new treatment for endometriosis, and is preparing for its Phase II trial for its drug to treat female urinary incontinence. FemmePharma is devoted to developing safe and effective drugs that minimize or eliminate unpleasant side effects associated with many medications by designing them in a manner that is specifically suited to a woman's physiology, with an eye toward the changing needs of women throughout their lives. The company has a number of drugs in development based on its proprietary technologies, including new therapeutic options for fibrocystic breast disease. For more information about FemmePharma, please visit its website at www.fpghc.com.

About Emory University

Emory's Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC) encompasses those components of Emory University responsible for education of health professionals, research affecting health and illness, patient care, and policies for prevention and treatment of disease. The WHSC's namesake, the legendary leader of The Coca-Cola Company, was a man whose vision and generosity left a lasting imprint on Emory and the city of Atlanta. In addition to the Woodruff Health Sciences Center and its components, including the School of Medicine, Emory University includes Emory College, Oxford College, a graduate school of arts and sciences, and professional schools of business, law, and theology.

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