In The News
Monday, February 28, 2011

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- **Genus Oncology, LLC Announces Initiation of Phase I Trial of GO-203-2c in Patients With Solid Tumors**
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- **Researchers from University Medical Center, Department of Pharmacy Publish New Studies and Findings in the Area of Stem Cell Research**
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- **Reports from University of Arizona Advance Knowledge in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery**
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- **UMC doc: ER care may 1 day put some in 'suspended' state**
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- **Budget-cutters have no sympathy for the nation's poor (Dr. Rainer Gruessner mentioned)**
  02/27/2011 Clarion-Ledger - Online

- **Lawmakers Debate Effect of Weapons on Campus**
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- **Arizona weighs guns on campus**
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- **More to the story of the Tucson shootings**
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- **FREDERIC ZENHAUSERN IS A SCIENTIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN CHANDLER.**
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- **John Pope, MD, MPH - Pediatrics**
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- **1st U.S. Female Patient Discharged with Total Artificial Heart Powered by the Freedom® Portable Driver**
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- **Arsenic alters ATP-dependent Ca2+ signaling in human airway epithelial cell wound response**
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Genus Oncology, LLC Announces Initiation of Phase I Trial of GO-203-2c in Patients With Solid Tumors
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Genus Oncology, LLC, a clinical-stage company focused on commercializing novel drugs for treatment of cancer, announced it has successfully filed an Investigational New Drug (IND) application with the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and has dosed the first patient in a Phase I trial to test its lead compound, GO-203-2c, in patients with solid tumors (see also ).

"We are excited to enter this new phase of clinical development," said Stephen Thompson, CEO and President of Genus Oncology. "Filing this IND represents the culmination of years of innovation and hard work by Genus Oncology's scientific and development teams. Our work demonstrates that Mucin 1 (MUC1) is a viable drug target, and that inhibition of MUC1 function blocks tumor development and survival of multiple human cancers in preclinical models, including breast, prostate, colon, lung, and pancreatic cancers. Across multiple animal models of human tumor xenografts, treated animals experienced complete responses and remained tumor free up to 6 months post treatment. We look forward to leveraging our understanding of the role of MUC1 in cancer, and taking the first step to advance the treatment of cancer through Phase I clinical trial and follow-on development programs."

"The basic science behind this is a brilliant piece of work. We are very pleased to translate this into new therapeutics for patients," said Dr. Daniel Von Hoff, Physician in Chief, Distinguished Professor, Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Arizona College of Medicine and Chief Scientific Officer, Scottsdale Healthcare and US Oncology Research, and Principle Investigator for the Phase I study.

The Phase I trial is a prospective, open-label study that is designed to determine the safety and tolerability, and potential anti-tumor activity of Genus' first drug candidate, GO-203-2c. Up to 40 patients will be enrolled in the study at multiple clinical sites. The sites currently contracted to conduct the Phase I trial are the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) and the Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center at Scottsdale Healthcare Hospital. Additional sites are currently under consideration.

"We are very enthusiastic to participate in this clinical trial with a promising and innovative targeted therapy. We are excited to have identified the first patient to be treated in the study and will work diligently together with our colleagues from TGen as well as with our partners from Genus to achieve the study goals," said Dr. Alain Mita, Director of the Advanced Fellowship Program in Drug Development at UTHSCSA.

"We are excited to work with a distinguished team at Genus Oncology and Harvard Medical School," said Dr. Ramesh Ramanathan, Medical Director, TGen Clinical Research Services at Scottsdale Healthcare. "In normal cells MUC1, a mucin, coats the intestine and other organs and prevents penetration of bacteria and other pathogens. The MUC1 protein is abnormal and present in high concentrations in cancer cells and appears to be important in cancer cell growth; and GO-203-2c is one of the first peptides to specifically target this molecule."

Researchers from University Medical Center, Department of Pharmacy Publish New Studies and Findings in the Area of Stem Cell Research
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Fresh data on Stem Cell Research are presented in the report 'High-dose chemotherapy with hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for the treatment of primary central nervous system lymphoma.' According to a study from the United States, "Primary central nervous system lymphoma (PCNSL) is a rare B-cell lymphoid neoplasm for which current regimens utilizing standard-dose chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy lead to high relapse rates and/or unacceptable neurologic sequelae. High-dose chemotherapy followed by hematopoietic stem cell transplantation may overcome limitations of current treatment schemas."

"A search was performed of all English-language literature (1968 to June 2009) within the MEDLINE, EMBASE and Cochrane Library databases to identify relevant clinical trials using the terms stem cell transplantation, bone marrow transplantation, primary central nervous system lymphoma, and PCNSL. Bibliographies were reviewed to extract other relevant articles. Use of high-dose chemotherapy followed by hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for the treatment of PCNSL in a predominantly elderly population is feasible. Use of this treatment modality for newly diagnosed and recurrent or relapsed disease is burdened by a paucity of data guiding patient selection, optimal induction regimen, stem cell mobilization and conditioning chemotherapy. Data are also sparse and confounding regarding timing of initiation of this procedure relative to the natural history of the disease and timing of each chemotherapy regimen relative to each other. High-dose chemotherapy followed by hematopoietic stem cell transplantation remains an experimental procedure with insufficient data to guide clinicians," wrote C.J. Campen and colleagues, University Medical Center, Department of Pharmacy (see also ).

The researchers concluded: "However, the data are encouraging and merit continued research to guide patient selection and treatment regimens which may produce optimal outcomes."


For more information, contact C.J. Campen, University Medical Center, Dept. of Pharmacy, Tucson, AZ USA.

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Reports from University of Arizona Advance Knowledge in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 02/28/2011 NewsRx.com

Researchers detail in 'Nasal reconstruction,' new data in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. "The face tells the world who we are and materially influences what we can become. The nose is a primary feature," scientists in the United States report (see also ).

"Thin, supple cover and lining are shaped by a middle layer of bone and cartilage support to create its characteristic skin quality, border outline, and three-dimensional contour. The delicacy of its tissues, its central projecting location, and the need to reestablish both a normal appearance and functional breathing make its reconstruction difficult. Nasal repair requires careful analysis of the anatomical and aesthetic deficiencies. Because the wound does not accurately reflect the tissue
deficiency, the repair is determined by the 'normal.' A preliminary operation may be required to ensure clear margins, recreate the defect, reestablish a stable nasal platform on which to build the nose, and prepare tissues for transfer. Major nasal defects require resurfacing with forehead tissue; support with septal, ear, or rib grafts; and replacement of missing lining," wrote F.J Menick and colleagues, University of Arizona.

The researchers concluded: "This requires a staged approach."


For additional information, contact F.J. Menick, St. Joseph's Hospital and the University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz USA.

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