

Press Release

Zug, 13 June 2012

Ophthotech's novel anti-PDGF combination agent Fovista™ demonstrated superior efficacy over Lucentis® monotherapy in large controlled wet AMD trial

Ophthotech Corporation, one of the ten largest investments in the portfolio of HBM BioVentures, today announced results from a 449 patient phase IIb clinical trial of Fovista™ to show statistically significant superior efficacy over the blockbuster drug Lucentis® (ranibizumab) monotherapy for the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD). Lucentis had over 3 billion USD in sales in 2011.

Patients receiving the combination of Fovista (1.5 mg) and Lucentis gained a mean of 10.6 letters of vision on the ETDRS standardized chart at 24 weeks, compared to 6.5 letters for patients receiving Lucentis monotherapy ($p=0.019$), representing a 62% additional benefit. No significant safety issues were observed for either treatment group in the trial.

"This is a truly remarkable finding for patients with wet AMD. To achieve a 62% relative visual benefit over anti-VEGF monotherapy is extraordinary," commented retina specialist Carmen A. Puliafito, M.D., Dean of the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. "The very compelling and robust results of this well-executed study validate PDGF as an important target for wet AMD and set the stage for a new era of combination therapy via co-formulation or fixed-combination delivery. I look forward to the rapid development of this important drug for our patients."

HBM BioVentures first invested in Ophthotech in 2007, and subsequently increased its stake in 2008, 2009 and 2011. HBM BioVentures has invested a total of USD 16.5 million and holds about 15.7% of the company.

The positive results from this first clinical trial have no immediate impact on the valuation of the investment in Ophthotech due to the valuation principles adopted by HBM BioVentures.

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Wet AMD

Age-related macular degeneration is a disease characterized by progressive degenerative abnormalities in the macula of the eye, a small area in the central portion of the retina. Age-related macular degeneration is classified into one of two general subgroups: the “Dry” (non-neovascular) form of the disease; and the “Wet” (exudative or neovascular) form of the disease. The “Dry” form of AMD is characterized by a slow degeneration of the macula resulting in atrophy of the central retina, with gradual vision loss over a period of years. By contrast, “Wet” AMD typically causes sudden, often substantial, loss of central vision and is responsible for most cases of severe loss of visual acuity in this disease. Age-related macular degeneration is characteristically a disease of individuals aged 50 years or older, and is the leading cause of blindness in developed countries around the world.

About Ophthotech

Ophthotech Corporation is a privately held biopharmaceutical company based in Princeton, NJ focused on developing and commercializing therapies for dry and wet AMD. Ophthotech is developing a pipeline of compounds with strong scientific foundations for the treatment of AMD, with the goal of bringing them to market in an accelerated manner. Ophthotech’s venture investors include SV Life Sciences Advisers, Novo Ventures, HBM BioVentures and Clarus Ventures. For more information, please visit www.ophthotech.com.

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Profile of HBM BioVentures AG

HBM BioVentures invests in the healthcare sector. The Company holds and manages an international portfolio of some twenty five promising companies in the biotechnology/human medicine, medical technology and diagnostics sectors. Many of these companies have their lead products already available on the market, or at an advanced stage of development. The focus of investment is on follow-on financing for existing portfolio companies. These portfolio companies are closely tracked and actively guided on their strategic directions. This is what makes HBM BioVentures an interesting alternative to investing in big pharma and biotech companies. HBM BioVentures has an international shareholder base and is listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker: HBMN).

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