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Portola Pharmaceuticals Announces Two Oral Presentations on Elinogrel at European Society of Cardiology Congress 2009

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (August 24, 2009) – Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc. today announced two oral presentations at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress 2009 in Barcelona, Spain, that will feature its investigational antiplatelet drug elinogrel, a P2Y₁₂ ADP receptor antagonist that is currently in Phase II clinical development with Novartis, Portola's development and commercialization partner.

Oral presentation details are as follows:

Title: First in Patient Experience with a New, Direct Acting, Reversible P2Y₁₂ Inhibitor, Elinogrel (PRT060128): Evaluation in Patients with High Platelet Reactivity During Clopidogrel Therapy (Program #2678)

Presenter: Paul A. Gurbel, M.D., Director, Sinai Center for Thrombosis Research, Baltimore, Md.

Date: Monday, August 31, 4:45-5:00 p.m.

Location: Sofia Room, Zone 1

Title: The Clopidogrel-Insensitive Pool of P2Y₁₂ Receptors Exposed Upon Platelet Activation Contributes to Thrombus Formation and Can Be Blocked by Elinogrel, a Direct Acting, Reversible P2Y₁₂ Inhibitor (Program #5115)

Presenter: Helena Haberstock-Debic of Portola

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 11:15-11:30 a.m.

Location: Stockholm Room, Zone 4

About Elinogrel

Elinogrel is the only direct acting, reversible, i.v. and oral P2Y₁₂ ADP receptor antagonist in clinical development. Inhibiting the P2Y₁₂ ADP receptor on platelets has been proven to prevent thrombosis and subsequent heart attacks. Because of its properties, elinogrel has the potential to provide significant clinical advantages compared to Plavix®* (clopidogrel), the current standard of care; newer agents, such as prasugrel; and those in development, by lowering the risk of ischemic events due to clot formation and reducing the risk of bleeding. In addition, elinogrel is the only compound in development that can be administered intravenously in the hospital and orally in the chronic setting.

About Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Portola Pharmaceuticals develops innovative therapeutics based on targets with established proofs of concept that are designed to provide significant advances over current treatments for cardiovascular disease, inflammatory disease and cancer. The company has global development and commercialization agreements with two of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies collectively valued at about \$1B in upfront and milestone payments plus escalating double-digit royalties on future sales. Betrixaban, its oral Factor Xa inhibitor is licensed to Merck & Co., Inc., and elinogrel, its P2Y₁₂ ADP receptor antagonist and potential competitor for Plavix* (clopidogrel), is licensed to Novartis. Both betrixaban and elinogrel are Phase II product candidates that have best-in-class features to address the global multi-billion hospital, specialty, and chronic care anticoagulant and antiplatelet markets, respectively.

Portola also has proprietary pipeline programs focused on the discovery and development of novel, specific Syk and JAK inhibitors to treat cancer and inflammatory diseases; a thromboxane receptor antagonist, which is an aspirin replacement product for patients intolerant to aspirin; and a novel anticoagulant antidote program with the potential to help manage or reverse the bleeding complications in the tens of millions of patients expected to be treated with anticoagulants worldwide in the next decade. For additional information, visit www.portola.com.

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*Plavix® is a registered trademark of Sanofi/Aventis and Bristol Myers Squibb.