



Contact:
GendeLLindheim BioCom Partners
Barbara Lindheim
212 918 4650

CENERX INITIATES PHASE II TRIAL OF TRIRIMA™ AS MONOTHERAPY IN TREATMENT RESISTANT DEPRESSION

—Follows Successful Safety Studies of New and Improved Formulation of this Novel Antidepressant—

—Learn More about CeNeRx and TriRima at Biotech Showcase™ 2011—

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC, January 6, 2011 -- CeNeRx BioPharma, Inc., today reported that it has initiated a Phase II trial of its new formulation of *TriRima*™, the company's novel antidepressant in development as monotherapy for treatment resistant depression. CeNeRx also announced that it will be presenting at Biotech Showcase™ 2011 on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 11:00 AM PST.

TriRima is a member of a novel class of drugs known as RIMAs, or reversible and selective inhibitors of monoamine oxidase A (MAO-A). MAO inhibitors achieve superior "triple-action" antidepressant efficacy by elevating the levels of all three of the key neurotransmitters that positively affect mood. However, older MAO inhibitors have been limited by their potential to cause serious cardiovascular side effects when foods containing the naturally occurring substance tyramine are consumed.

TriRima is designed to achieve the efficacy of the MAO inhibitor class while reducing or eliminating the risk of these food-associated effects. In a recently reported "tyramine challenge" study, subjects receiving the new formulation of *TriRima* showed no signs of any negative effects, even after being exposed to large amounts of tyramine. These positive results further confirmed the good safety profile demonstrated by *TriRima* in Phase I studies.

The Phase II trial is a double blind, placebo-controlled study designed to assess the efficacy of *TriRima* administered twice daily as monotherapy in patients with treatment resistant depression. Secondary objectives include evaluating *TriRima*'s safety and tolerability and assessing its pharmacokinetic profile. CeNeRx expects to enroll 360 patients in the study, which is being conducted at multiple centers in the U.S.

"We are eager to test the efficacy of our promising new formulation of *TriRima* in treatment resistant depression, and we are delighted that our Phase II trial is now enrolling patients," said Daniel Burch, MD, Chief Medical Officer of CeNeRx. "The new formulation of *TriRima* has demonstrated excellent safety in multiple studies to date, and we believe that it has the potential to become the first agent to achieve the triple action efficacy of MAO inhibitor drugs without their limiting side effects."

The modified release formulation of *TriRima* has major advantages over the version used in earlier studies. In addition to displaying excellent pharmacokinetic properties, the dosing frequency has been reduced to one tablet administered once or twice daily.

"*TriRima* addresses a large unmet medical need—currently a substantial proportion of patients with major depression do not receive adequate relief from their therapy," noted Barry Brand, Chief Executive Officer of CeNeRx. "*TriRima* has the potential to be the first option that provides these patients superior efficacy and a good safety profile as monotherapy, and we look forward to advancing the Phase II trial in the coming year."

CeNeRx will be presenting at the Biotech Showcase 2011 meeting at 11:00 AM PST on January 11. The conference is being held January 10-12, 2011 at the Parc 55 Wyndham, San Francisco. More information on the meeting can be found at www.ebdgroup.com/bts/index.php.

.

About CeNeRx BioPharma

CeNeRx is a privately held clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing and commercializing innovative treatments for diseases of the central nervous system. CeNeRx's most advanced compound, a reversible inhibitor of monoamine oxidase, or RIMA, is in Phase II development for treatment resistant depression. RIMAs may have efficacy advantages over current agents for depression and are expected to have a good safety profile. The company's CNS pipeline also includes clinical-stage hypothalamic-pituitary adrenal (HPA) axis modulators for the treatment of a variety of CNS disorders including anxiety and depression; a small molecule, orally active agent for the prevention and treatment of neuropathies and neurodegenerative disorders; and a series of selective cannabinoid compounds that have recently completed successful preclinical proof-of-concept studies for the treatment of pain, glaucoma and spasticity. The company's investors include Perseus Soros Biopharmaceutical Fund, L Capital Partners and Pappas Ventures. For more information, visit www.cenerx.com.

.

.