



Gynecologic Oncology Group to Conduct Front -line Phase III Trial of XYOTAX™ in Ovarian Cancer

Study Places XYOTAX in Hands of Clinical Leaders in Gynecologic Cancer Treatment

Nov. 5, 2002 Seattle —Cell Therapeutics, Inc. (CTI) (NASDAQ:CTIC) and the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) announced today that the GOG will conduct a phase III trial of XYOTAX in front -line treatment of ovarian cancer. The trial is expected to begin in 2003 and to enroll approximately 1,000 patients over twelve months.

“The mission of the GOG is to improve the lives and outcomes of patients with gynecologic cancers. While we have made significant progress in prolonging the lives of women with ovarian cancer, one of our biggest challenges is to improve their quality of life, given the serious side effects of current chemotherapy,” noted Larry J. Copeland, M.D., Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Chair, James Cancer Hospital, Ohio State University and Ovarian Protocol Committee Chair and Vice Chair of the GOG. “A new tumor -targeted agent, like XYOTAX, that is easy to administer to patients and accompanied by the potential for them to experience fewer of these severe, often debilitating, side effects of current taxane therapy could represent a significant advance in the treatment of this disease. We have been impressed with the quality of the science at CTI and their commitment to making cancer more treatable and are excited about the prospects of this relationship for our patients.”

According to the National Cancer Institute, about one in every 57 women in the United States will develop ovarian cancer and will live, on average, 4 years following chemotherapy treatment. Most cases occur in women over the age of 50, but ovarian cancer also can affect younger women. Standard treatment for front -line ovarian cancer includes the use of paclitaxel (Taxol®) in combination with carboplatin, another chemotherapy. While as many as 80 percent of patients are expected to respond to these agents, side effects including hair loss, debilitating nerve damage, and the potential for severe life -threatening infections and bleeding are frequent.

“The GOG has established the standards for treatment of ovarian and other gynecologic cancers in the United States. They have an excellent track record of efficiently conducting high quality phase III trials upon which product registration has been based,” stated James A. Bianco, M.D. President and CEO of Cell Therapeutics, Inc. “We are genuinely honored to have such a

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prestigious organization lead our phase III ovarian cancer trial. This not only has the potential to save the Company significant time and resources but places XYOTAX in the hands of leading U.S. gynecologic oncologists.”

About The Gynecologic Oncology Group

The GOG is a national non-profit organization dedicated to clinical research in the field of gynecologic cancer. The purpose of the GOG is to improve the treatment of gynecologic cancer. These goals are addressed through research encompassing surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, pathology, immunology and/or gynecologic nursing. To promote this mission, the GOG receives support from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes for Health. The GOG has a history of establishing treatment standards for ovarian cancer, demonstrating improved survival with platinum therapy in the early 1980s and again with the combination of Taxol and platinum in the mid-1990s.

About XYOTAX™

XYOTAX (pronounced Zī-ō-tāks) is a first-in-class smart pharmaceutical that links paclitaxel, the active ingredient in Taxol®, to a biodegradable polyglutamate polymer. This polymer technology results in a new chemical entity, designed to selectively deliver higher and potentially more effective levels of active chemotherapeutic to tumors. Blood vessels in tumor tissue, unlike blood vessels in normal tissue, are porous to molecules like polyglutamate. Based on preclinical studies, it appears that XYOTAX is preferentially trapped in the tumor blood vessels allowing significantly more of the dose of chemotherapy to localize in the tumor. Because more of the chemotherapy is targeted to the tumor and the level of chemotherapy delivered to normal tissue are reduced, XYOTAX may be potentially more effective and have less severe side effects than currently available chemotherapeutics.

About Cell Therapeutics, Inc.

Based in Seattle, CTI is a biopharmaceutical company committed to developing an integrated portfolio of oncology products aimed at making cancer more treatable. For additional information, please visit www.cticseattle.com.

This announcement includes forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties, the outcome of which could materially and/or adversely affect actual future results. Specifically, the risks and uncertainties that could affect the development of XYOTAX include risks associated with preclinical and clinical developments in the biopharmaceutical industry in general and with XYOTAX in particular including, without limitation, the potential failure of XYOTAX to prove safe and effective for treatment of ovarian cancer, the risk that the GOG will fail to enroll patients or otherwise fail to conduct the phase III trial in a timely and effective manner, determinations by regulatory, patent and administrative governmental authorities with respect to XYOTAX, competitive factors, technological developments, costs of developing, producing and selling XYOTAX, and the risk factors listed or described from time to time in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission including, without limitation, the Company's most recent filings on Forms 10-K, 8-K, S-3 and 10-Q.

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