

Press Release

Cytochroma Inc. Expands Collaboration With Allergan

KINGSTON, Ontario, Canada - July 31, 2001 - Cytochroma Inc., today announced the continuation and expansion of its research, development and license agreement with **Allergan (NYSE: AGN)**, Irvine, California, to develop inhibitors of retinoic acid metabolism. The expanded agreement extends the period of the exclusive research collaboration for up to three years and includes additional milestone payments and increased royalty streams on product sales.

Dr. Robert Foldes, President & CEO, states "The continuation of our research collaboration with Allergan to explore new indications such as cancer, provides a strong endorsement for the potential therapeutic benefits of CYP26 inhibitors. In particular, we believe that these compounds may be suitable for oral administration and may have significant advantages when compared to retinoids (several of which have been approved for the treatment of a variety of cancers)."

The collaboration, initiated in June 1999, exploits Cytochroma's proprietary position on two key cytochrome P450 enzymes responsible for the breakdown of retinoic acid in humans, CYP26A & CYP26B. Cytochroma's proprietary drug screening technologies as well as its expertise in the biological effects of retinoic acid signaling, have been effectively leveraged through this partnership for drug discovery, design and validation. The successful achievement of all objectives outlined in the initial agreement has led to a small library of compounds representing exquisitely specific and potent CYP26A and/or CYP26B inhibitors. Several of these compounds have shown promising results in various research models and are poised to enter preclinical development for dermatology indications such as acne, psoriasis and photo-aging.

Dr. Rosh Chandraratna, Vice President, Retinoid Research, Allergan, states "The research collaboration with Cytochroma has been highly successful and has led rapidly to the identification of promising compounds for dermatology indications. We are delighted to continue and expand this collaboration since we believe that specific CYP26 inhibitors may be of therapeutic benefit in cancer and other retinoid responsive diseases".

Cytochroma Inc. is an applied genomics and drug discovery company. It is a world leader in the discovery of cytochrome P450 genes, the identification of the function of the proteins encoded by those genes, and the discovery of highly potent and specific drugs regulating cytochrome P450 enzymes to address unmet medical needs. To date, Cytochroma's drug discovery program has identified modulators of retinoic acid and calcitriol metabolism as drug candidates for the treatment of skin diseases, cancer and bone disorders.