

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2007

**Announcement of the Acquisition of Marketing Approval for  
the Selective COX-2 Inhibitor Celecox Tablet in Japan**

Japan January 26, 2007 - Astellas Pharma Inc. ("Astellas"; Headquarters: Tokyo; President and CEO: Masafumi Nogimori) and Pfizer Japan Inc. ("Pfizer"; Headquarters: Tokyo; President and CEO: Hiromitsu Iwasaki) have obtained marketing approval for its non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) (selective COX-2 inhibitor) Celecox (generic name: celecoxib) to be indicated for relief of inflammation and pain of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and osteoarthritis (OA). Celecox has been jointly developed by Astellas and Pfizer in Japan. An application for approval was submitted in December 2002.

Developed by Pfizer Inc. in the United States, Celecox is the first COX (cyclooxygenase)-2 targeting anti-inflammatory agent to interfere with the production of prostaglandin and other chemicals involved in inflammation by selectively inhibiting COX-2 enzyme. First launched in the U.S. in 1999 and marketed in over 100 countries as Celebrex<sup>®</sup> or Celebra<sup>®</sup>.

The existence of two different phenotypes of cyclooxygenase, called COX-1 and COX-2, in the human body was first hypothesized in 1989. It is also hypothesized that constitutively expressed COX-1 takes part in protection of the gastrointestinal mucosa, while COX-2 which is induced by inflammatory stimuli is involved in inflammation and pain associated with arthritis. Upper gastrointestinal adverse event reported for conventional nonselective NSAIDs is thought to be the consequence of inhibiting both COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes. Celecoxib is the first selective COX-2 inhibitor developed and marketed worldwide expecting to provide therapeutic benefit while avoiding GI effect. Astellas and Pfizer are confident that Celecox will contribute to the RA and OA patients in Japan as a new treatment option.

Astellas and Pfizer will announce the launch timing after it is listed in the NHI drug price list.

Details of approval are as follows:

Dare of marketing approval: January 26, 2007  
Brand name: Celecox<sup>®</sup> tablet 100mg, 200mg  
Generic name: celecoxib  
Classification: NSAID  
Indication: For relief of inflammation and pain associated with  
rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis  
Approval holder: Astellas Pharma Inc.,

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