

January 26, 2007

## **Approval for Candin Antifungal Agent Funguard for Prophylaxis of *Aspergillus* and *Candida* infections in patients undergoing HSCT and Immunosuppressant Prograf for Lupus Nephritis in Japan**

Japan, January 26, 2007 - Astellas Pharma Inc. (“Astellas”; Headquarters: Tokyo; President and CEO: Masafumi Nogimori) today announced that it has received the approval for the candin antifungal agent Funguard<sup>®</sup> (i.e. brand name in Japan, generic name: micafungin sodium) for “prophylaxis of *Aspergillus* and *Candida* infections in patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation” and for the immunosuppressant Prograf<sup>®</sup> (generic name: tacrolimus) for “lupus nephritis” by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) on January 26, 2007 in Japan.

Funguard, discovered and generated by Astellas, is a member of a new class of antifungal agents for injection, the candins. The novel mechanism of action of micafungin sodium specifically interferes with fungal cell wall biosynthesis by selective inhibition of (1,3)-beta-D-glucan synthase. (1,3)-beta-D-glucan is an essential component of the skeletal structure of the fungal cell wall which is absent in mammalian cells. In Japan, Funguard has been marketed for “treatment of patients with fungemia, respiratory mycosis, and gastrointestinal mycosis caused by *Aspergillus* sp. and *Candida* sp.” since December 2002 and approved for pediatrics in April 2006. As a result of this approval for “prophylaxis of *Aspergillus* and *Candida* infections in patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation,” Funguard will contribute a greater deal to the treatment of the fungal infections.

Prograf is an immunosuppressant discovered and developed by Astellas and is marketed as an immunosuppressant for organ transplantation in more than 70 countries. “Lupus nephritis” is a kidney disease onset as a complication of a systematic lupus erythematosus. It shows hematuria, fever, swelling, and so on, and sometime proceeds to an acute renal failure or a chronic renal failure. Prograf is expected to be new option of its treatment as a result of this approval for “lupus nephritis.”

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