

March 10, 2008

Conclusion of Co-Development and Co-Marketing Agreement on a Functional Dyspepsia Agent Z-338/YM443 in Japan with Zeria

Japan, March 10, 2008 - Astellas Pharma Inc. (headquarters: Tokyo, president and CEO: Masafumi Nogimori, "Astellas") today announced that Astellas and Zeria Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (headquarters: Tokyo, president and CEO: Sachiaki Ibe, "Zeria") concluded the agreement for the co-development and co-marketing of a functional dyspepsia agent Z-338/YM443 (generic name: acotiamide hydrochloride), which was discovered by Zeria and is now in development phase, in Japan. Based on this agreement, Zeria will obtain marketing approval, and both companies co-market the product under the single brand name.

Acotiamide hydrochloride is a novel compound originated by Zeria and being developed in Europe, North America and Japan as the first therapeutic drug in the world for the treatment of functional dyspepsia (FD). In the North America, Astellas has obtained exclusive rights for development and commercialization in July 2002, and P I Ib for "Z-338/YM443" is now underway. Upon this conclusion of the agreement in Japan, Zeria and Astellas will commence co-development from P III studies. Zeria conducts P I Ib study in Europe.

According to the Rome III, the international classification and diagnostic criteria for functional gastrointestinal disorders, FD is a gastrointestinal disease that comprises subjective symptoms such as postprandial fullness, early satiation and epigastric pain without any structural abnormality on gastrointestinal tract. The etiology of FD is still unclear, but it has been shown that delayed gastric emptying is closely associated with FD.

Acetylcholine is an important neurotransmitter for gastrointestinal motility, and it has been considered that Z-338/YM443 inhibits peripheral acetylcholinesterase activities, resulting in improvement of delayed gastric emptying, and thus, effective on the symptoms of FD.

Recent studies indicate that one fourth of adult population in Japan suffers from the symptoms of FD, and FD is a disease with a high incidence rate. To date, there has been no product that demonstrated the efficacy in patients with FD or obtained marketing approval. Acotiamide hydrochloride is expected to be the first therapeutic drug in the world for FD.

#####

Contacts for inquiries or additional information
Astellas Pharma Inc. Corporate Communications Tel: +81-3-3244-3201 Fax: +81-3-5201-7473 http://www.astellas.com