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AEGERA ADDS SIX NEW PATENTS TO THEIR INHIBITOR OF APOPTOSIS PATENT ESTATE

MONTREAL. September 29, 2004 - Aegera Therapeutics Inc. is pleased to announce the issuance of six (6) additional patents on and around the Inhibitors of Apoptosis (IAP) gene family. Aegera now has a total of nineteen (19) issued US patents and one (1) issued European patent covering five of the eight known IAPs. Aegera's IAP patent portfolio is based on the discoveries of two of their scientific founders, Dr. Robert Korneluk and Dr. Alex MacKenzie. With a priority date going back to August of 1995, Aegera has firmly established themselves as a key player in the development of apoptosis-related therapeutics.

The mechanisms by which cells execute apoptosis, or natural cell death, involve the irreversible activation of key enzymes which effectively complete the highly controlled dismantling of a cell's structure. The IAP gene family is the only known intrinsic inhibitor of these enzymes, and as such plays a crucial role in maintaining the health and survival of cells. Abnormal levels of the IAPs have been clearly implicated as factors in multiple disorders including cancer, autoimmune and degenerative diseases.

Aegera has taken this technology to the clinic with an antisense therapeutic, AEG35156, targeting just one of their IAPs named the X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis (XIAP) protein, a target which inhibits apoptosis using dual mechanisms. The first clinical trial of AEG35156 began in March of 2004 in the UK, and a second trial has been approved in Canada and is scheduled to begin shortly.

The following is a comprehensive list of Aegera's US IAP patent estate:

Patent Number	Title
6,797,473	Methods and compounds for modulating male fertility
6,709,866	Methods for enhancing survival of a neuron
6,689,562	Mammalian IAP gene family, primers, probes and detection methods
6,673,917	Antisense IAP nucleic acids and uses thereof
6,656,704	Mammalian apoptosis inhibitor protein gene family, primers, probes and detection methods
6,541,457	Mammalian IAP gene family, primers, probes and detection methods
6,495,339	Method of identifying a compound that modulates XAF-mediated apoptosis
6,429,011	Neuronal apoptosis inhibitor protein gene sequence and mutations causative of spinal muscular atrophy
6,331,412	Methods and compounds for modulating male fertility
6,300,492	Modulation of IAPs for the diagnosis and antisense treatment of proliferative disease
6,171,821	XIAP IRES and uses thereof
6,159,948	Therapeutic and drug screening methods for the treatment and prevention of neuronal disease

6,159,709	XIAP IRES and uses thereof
6,156,535	Mammalian IAP gene family, primers, probes, and detection methods
6,133,437	Modulation of IAPs for the treatment of proliferative diseases
6,107,088	XAF genes and polypeptides: methods and reagents for modulating apoptosis
6,107,041	Detection and modulation of IAPS for the diagnosis and treatment of proliferative disease
6,020,127	Neuronal apoptosis inhibitor protein, gene sequence and mutations causative of spinal muscular atrophy
5,919,912	Mammalian IAP antibodies and diagnostic kits

About Aegera

Aegera Therapeutics Inc. is a private North American biotechnology company focused on exploiting apoptosis control to extend and enhance the lives of cancer patients: killing cancer cells by inducing apoptosis and rescuing nerve cells from apoptotic cell death caused by chemotherapy. Aegera's lead oncology product is a XIAP antisense therapeutic, AEG35156, developed in collaboration with Hybridon, Inc. Aegera's second oncology program is being developed to alleviate the disabling chemotherapy side-effect of peripheral neuropathy, and a lead product is scheduled to enter clinical trials by year end 2005. With the support of its strong intellectual property position, Aegera is committed to discovering and developing new apoptosis control drugs. For more information, please visit Aegera's website at www.aegera.com.