



Contact: Rebecca Burton
Tel: + 44 7968 702993
Email: rebecca_burton@uk.cohnwolfe.com

European LeukemiaNet and Novartis launch European Treatment and Outcomes Study to bring state of the art management to over 5,000 patients across Europe with chronic myeloid leukemia

19 October 2007, Budapest: The European LeukemiaNet (ELN) and Novartis today launched the European Treatment and Outcome Study (EUTOS) for CML, an initiative designed to provide European healthcare professionals with access to the latest disease management tools and techniques to help physicians achieve the best possible outcomes for patients with a form of blood cancer known as chronic myeloid leukemia (CML).

By uniting the extensive experience in the treatment of CML of both the ELN and Novartis, EUTOS for CML aims to increase understanding of the incidence and management of CML and to expand access to a state of the art clinical support program including blood level and molecular testing for as many as 5,000 CML patients across Europe.

“The European LeukemiaNet is committed to conducting clinical research and providing guidance to healthcare professionals across Europe about all types of leukemia and has been working in this area for the last three years”, said Professor Rüdiger Hehlmann, Coordinator of the ELN. “We are delighted to partner with Novartis, a company with a strong commitment to revolutionizing management of CML and we believe that this collaboration is essential to maximize the resources available, to share the scientific and clinical knowledge needed to further progress the management of this rare disease, and to achieve a pan-European standard of care in CML.”

EUTOS for CML will enable rapid expansion of the ELN’s existing work in CML, including the extension of the ELN’s existing registry of patients – a database which follows CML patients and provides a real-world picture of their treatment and its outcomes – into a pan-European study.

EUTOS for CML will also expand free access to state-of-the-art technology which can assess patients’ response to treatment. Finally, Novartis and the ELN will collaborate to provide

educational materials to healthcare professionals to ensure they are well equipped to optimize treatment for their CML patients.

“Novartis is pleased to unite with the ELN in EUTOS for CML, a collaboration which will take existing state-of-the-art clinical programs and turn them into examples of best practice in the management of CML. We look forward to working with the ELN to implement these initiatives and to the impact they will have on the management of CML,” concluded Guido Guidi, Head, Novartis Oncology, Region Europe.

- Ends -

The European Treatment and Outcome Study (EUTOS) for CML is founded by Novartis

Notes to editors

About EUTOS for CML

The goals EUTOS for CML are to:

- Enhance understanding of the incidence and management of CML
- Improve and standardize evaluation and monitoring of treatments for CML
- Optimize treatment of CML patients across Europe

Key activities to be undertaken as part of EUTOS for CML include:

- Rapid expansion of ELN's existing work in CML, including its CML registry, to collect baseline, treatment and outcome data of representative samples of CML patients in European countries. This enhanced bank of real world data will help to measure the clinical effects of implementation of ELN recommendations on the management of CML
- Expand CML patient access to a state-of-the-art clinical support program, including availability of laboratory monitoring of key therapeutic parameters using globally standardized methodologies. This program aims to reshape the European infrastructure and to standardize procedures for the molecular monitoring of CML and will facilitate the investigation of response and acquired resistance to existing treatments for CML, helping to inform therapeutic choices for these patients
- Extend availability of monitoring of a key targeted therapy treatment option, developing a Europe-wide pharmacological monitoring service to optimize therapy with the drug. Data collected during the two year program will be analyzed to investigate the most effective level of blood concentration
- Educational initiatives, including a web portal, data publications and presence at selected key scientific congresses, to inform and educate healthcare professionals involved in the

management of CML on the activities of EUTOS for CML and to share learnings and best practices.

About the European LeukemiaNet (ELN)

The ELN was established by the European Community in 2004 to strengthen scientific and technological excellence in research and treatment of CML and other leukemias by integrating the leading national leukemia networks and their interdisciplinary partner groups in Europe.

The ELN comprises 117 participating centers in 22 countries, from Ireland to Israel and Italy to Russia, and has over 1000 researchers and associates cooperating to share knowledge and expertise in the treatment of CML.

ELN members from France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have worked with experts from Australia and the United States of America to provide the medical community with an updated and critical review of the treatment of CML and with recommendations for the appropriate use of new treatments.¹

To encourage incorporation of such recommendations into clinical practice, the ELN is undertaking a number of national and international studies in Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Scandinavia and other European countries and has established a European Registry to register, treat and monitor as many patients with CML as possible in controlled, prospective, investigational or observational studies.

About Novartis

Novartis AG (NYSE: NVS) is a world leader in offering medicines to protect health, cure disease and improve well-being. Our goal is to discover, develop and successfully market innovative products to treat patients, ease suffering and enhance the quality of life. We are strengthening our medicine-based portfolio, which is focused on strategic growth platforms in innovation-driven pharmaceuticals, high-quality and low-cost generics, human vaccines and leading self-medication OTC brands. Novartis is the only company with leadership positions in these areas. In 2006, the Group's businesses achieved net sales of USD 37.0 billion and net income of USD 7.2 billion. Approximately USD 5.4 billion was invested in R&D. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ approximately 100,000 associates and operate in over 140 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

About chronic myeloid leukemia

Chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) is one of the four most common types of leukemia. It is the result of an abnormality in the stem cells of the bone marrow. The abnormality can be found in a faulty gene, which is the blueprint for a protein involved in controlling the production of white blood cells. The resulting abnormal protein causes a massive increase in the number of white blood cells. CML usually develops very slowly, which is why it is called 'chronic' myeloid leukemia. Chronic myeloid leukemia can occur at any age, but it more commonly affects middle-aged and older people. It is rare in children.

CML has historically been treated with chemotherapy, interferon and bone marrow transplantation. In 2002 the introduction of targeted therapies - medications which block the growth of cancer cells by interfering with specific targeted molecules needed for carcinogenesis and tumor growth, rather than by simply interfering with rapidly dividing cell - radically changed the management of CML. Targeted cancer therapies may be more effective than current treatments and less harmful to normal cells.

As a result survival rates for CML have improved, and more people are now living with the disease.

References

1. Baccarani M et al, Blood 2006; 108: 1809-1820