



June 10, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

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Selective TRPM8 Blocker (Azaspiro derivatives) Patent Allowance in Europe

June 10, 2020 – RaQualia Pharma Inc. today announced that the company received an allowance for a selective TRPM8 blocker substance patent in Europe (Application Number: 15760744.1, Azaspiro derivatives).

This azaspiro derivative is the same series of derivatives as described in the "Notice of Selective TRPM8 Blocker (Azaspiro derivatives) Patent Allowance in Japan" dated on October 29, 2019 (Japanese text only). In addition to the patents granted in Japan and the U.S.A., the company's intellectual property rights for azaspiro derivatives will be strengthened in Europe.

The TRPM8 blocker showed significant efficacy in animal models of anticancer drug-induced cold allodynia, one of neuropathic pain. The compound has also demonstrated efficacy against overactive bladder in animal models of cystitis. The TRPM8 blocker is expected to be an innovative new drug that addresses unmet medical needs in the areas of pain and urology.

Delivering selective ion channel blockers is one of RaQualia's core competences. This selective TRPM8 blocker was generated from the company's ion channel research expertise. RaQualia will continue to promote ion channel programs for various therapeutic applications, and manage its intellectual property portfolio.

The financial forecasts for the fiscal year 2020 (Jan. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020) will not be affected by this announcement.

References:

About TRPM8

TRPM8 is a temperature-sensitive ion channel that is activated by cold stimulation below 28 degrees or menthol (a component of mint). Although TRPM8 is widely known as a cold sensor in sensory nerves, few reports on its other functions are available. RaQualia anticipates that further research on novel selective TRPM8 blockers will uncover the function and mechanism of TRPM8, and will contribute to developing pharmaceuticals significantly.

About anticancer drug-induced cold allodynia

Anticancer drug-induced cold allodynia is paresthesia that occurs as a side effect of certain anticancer agents. Patients experience cold stimuli as severe pain when touching doorknobs or water in their normal lives. The symptom appears when peripheral nerves are damaged by the use of anticancer drugs. If the symptom is too severe to live their daily life, patients will be forced to reduce the dose of anticancer drugs or stop using them, narrowing treatment options for their chief complaints.

About patent allowance

Patent allowance is issued by each country's patent office to indicate that it believes an invention qualifies for a patent. After the patent fee is paid, the patent will be registered in the relevant country.