September 17, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

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Nav1.7 and Nav1.8 Sodium Channels Blocker (Amide Derivatives) Patent Allowance in Europe

September 17, 2020 - RaQualia Phamra Inc. (RaQualia) today announced that the company received an allowance* for a Nav1.7 and Nav1.8 sodium channels blocker substance patent in Europe (Application Number: 18815499.1, Amide derivatives)

This amide derivative belongs to the same series of derivatives as described in the "Notice of Nav1.7 and Nav1.8 Sodium Channel Blocker (Amide derivatives) Patent Allowance in Japan" dated on July 23, 2019. With this patent allowance, the company's intellectual property rights for amide derivatives will be strengthened in Europe as well as in Japan.

The sodium channel blocker has been shown to act specifically on Nav1.7 and Nav1.8 sodium channels and has demonstrated high efficacy in multiple pain animal models. Since it has shown favorable selectivity for the Nav1.5 sodium channel, which plays an important role in the heart, the compound is expected to meet various medical needs as a breakthrough therapeutic that may suppress side effects on the cardiovascular system.

Delivering selective ion channel blockers is one of RaQualia's core competences. This selective sodium channel blocker was generated from the company's ion channel research expertise and drug discovery experience in the pain area. RaQualia will continue to explore the possibilities of ion channel programs for various therapeutic applications, and expand 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. The company expects that this amide derivative will contribute to enhancing the corporate value in the medium to long term.

<Sodium Channel>
Sodium channel, one of ion channels that exist in excitable cell membranes such as muscle cells and neurons, conducts sodium ions through a cell's plasma membrane in response to change in potential. The opening of sodium channel triggers action potentials, which lead to pain transmission in sensory nerves. Nine functional members (Nav1.1 – Nav1.9) of sodium channel family have been identified to date. They have been classified based on their sensitivity to tetrodotoxin (TTX) as TTX-sensitive (TTX-S) and TTX-resistant (TTX-R) channels.

Blocking TTX-S channel is considered an effective approach to pain treatment.

*A patent allowance is an evaluation by a country's patent office that a patent application merits being granted a patent. After the patent is allowed and the fee paid, it is registered and the patent is issued in the relevant country.

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