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Start of Phase II Study of the 2nd Generation (Atypical) Antipsychotic Drug Ziprasidone in Japan

February 8, 2012 - RaQualia Pharma Inc. (“RaQualia”) today announced that Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. (“Meiji”) started Phase II Study of the 2nd generation (atypical) antipsychotic drug ziprasidone in Japan.

RaQualia licensed ziprasidone to Meiji in March 2011. Under the Licensing Agreement, Meiji has exclusive rights in Japan to develop and commercialize ziprasidone.

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder which commonly manifests itself via auditory hallucinations, paranoia, and various other symptoms. Ziprasidone is an atypical antipsychotic drug and demonstrates antagonistic efficacy on both the dopamine D2 receptor and serotonin 5-HT_{2A} receptor. Developed by Pfizer Inc, ziprasidone is currently marketed in 76 countries, with worldwide sales totaling over (US) \$1 billion in 2011. Ziprasidone has some advantages over other currently available 2nd generation antipsychotic drugs, including a low risk of body weight gain and blood sugar level increase. Ziprasidone is regarded as a first-choice drug in its class, according to guidelines for the treatment of mental disorders in the United States.

RaQualia and Meiji will continue to collaborate to launch ziprasidone at the earliest possible date in Japan.

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