



NEWS RELEASE

Motilin Receptor Agonist RQ-00201894 Advances to Pre-clinical Stage

September 14, 2012 - RaQualia Pharma Inc. announced today that its motilin receptor agonist RQ-00201894 was selected as a development compound to be further evaluated in pre-clinical studies. RQ-00201894 was identified as a promising drug candidate through the company's discovery efforts targeting the treatment of diseases related to gastrointestinal (GI) motility disorders, such as gastroparesis, post-operative ileus and functional dyspepsia.

RQ-00201894 is a potent and selective motilin receptor agonist, and its agonistic activity toward the motilin receptor is the most potent among the drug candidates currently being developed. Moreover, RQ-00201894 is an orally-bioavailable small molecule, and markedly improved hypomotility in a dog model of gastric motor dysfunction by oral administration.

RQ-00201894 is expected to be a first-in-class drug based on the novel motilin receptor activation mechanism of action. With its ability to restore impaired GI motility, RQ-00201894 will bring a unique and effective treatment option for diseases related to GI motility disorders.

About GI motility disorders

GI motility disorders are characterized by a variety of chronic abdominal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, postprandial fullness, early satiation, and abdominal pain. According to epidemiological studies, 10-30% of the human population experiences such abdominal symptoms, with significant impact on quality of life. Impairment in GI motility is considered to be one of the major underlying causes. There are only limited therapeutic options available now.

About motilin

Motilin, a 22 amino-acid polypeptide located in GI tract, regulates migrating motor contractions of the GI tract in a coordinated manner, thereby playing a crucial role in maintaining gut homeostasis.

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