



NEWS RELEASE

RaQualia Receives a Patent Allowance for Selective Sodium Channel Blocker in Japan

May 28, 2014 - RaQualia Pharma Inc. (RaQualia) today announced that the company received an allowance* for a sodium channel blocker substance patent in Japan (Application Number: 2014-011895, Title: ARYLAMIDE DERIVATIVES AS TTX-S BLOCKERS). This allowance ensures that the company's intellectual property rights will be strengthened in Japan.

These sodium channel blockers showed significant analgesic effects on several animal models for pain. They are highly selective to tetrodotoxin-sensitivity (TTX-S) sodium channels over TTX-resistant (TTX-R) sodium channels which have vital roles in heart. These compounds are expected to provide new treatment options for various pain conditions with fewer side effects.

As one of our core programs, the sodium channel blocker was generated from RaQualia's integrated discovery research using its expertise on ion channel assessment and long years' experience on pain research. RaQualia will continue efforts on ion channel discovery research to fulfill unmet medical needs, while the company bolsters its portfolio management of intellectual properties.

The consolidated financial projection for FY 2014 in the Business Plan issued on February 28, 2014, will not be affected by this announcement.

<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.

####