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Start of Phase I Study for Acid Pump Antagonist in Korea

November 14, 2011 - RaQualia Pharma Inc. (RaQualia) announced today that CJ CheilJedang Co. has begun a Phase I clinical study for the Acid Pump Antagonist RQ-00000004 in Korea. CJ CheilJedang Co. licensed this compound from RaQualia on September 3, 2010.

RQ-00000004 is a novel potassium competitive acid pump antagonist (APA) that inhibits the binding of potassium ion to H⁺/K⁺-ATPase. This mechanism of action is fundamentally different from that of proton-pump-inhibitors (PPIs) and enables a more rapid onset of acid suppression together with longer duration of action if an appropriate pharmacokinetic profile is obtained. APAs are expected to improve Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Diseases (GERD) symptom control that is currently inadequately addressed by PPI therapy, and also could be an effective therapy for patients who require immediate gastric acid suppression.

A single-dose Phase I clinical study conducted in the USA confirmed the desired pharmacological effects of RQ-00000004 on the intragastric pH, as well as good safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetic profiles for healthy volunteers. An additional Phase 1 study conducted with normal subjects in Korea is required for approval in that market. The multiple dose study is planned to confirm the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetic profiles, and a study using a biomarker is also planned.

RaQualia will continue to support CJ CheilJedang Co.'s development programs for RQ-00000004 in Korea, China and Taiwan. RaQualia is actively seeking partners to develop RQ-00000004 for the rest of the world, including Japan.

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