

This article printed from:



ImmunoGen, Inc. Earns Milestone with Start of Trastuzumab-DM1 Phase II Testing

Cancer Weekly - Aug. 14, 2007

2007 AUG 14 - (NewsRx.com) -- ImmunoGen, Inc. (Nasdaq: IMGN), a biopharmaceuticals company that develops targeted anticancer therapeutics using its Tumor-Activated Prodrug (TAP) technology, announced that Genentech has started Phase II clinical testing of trastuzumab-DM1. This event triggers a \$5 million milestone payment to ImmunoGen. Trastuzumab-DM1 comprises ImmunoGen's cell-killing agent, DM1, linked to Genentech's HER2-targeting antibody, trastuzumab, and is in development by Genentech for the potential treatment of HER2-expressing metastatic breast cancer.

Mitchel Sayare, Chairman and CEO, commented, "We're delighted with the progress Genentech is making in their development of trastuzumab-DM1 and with the clinical findings reported to date.

We anticipate sustained growth over time in the number of TAP compounds in clinical testing and in those advancing to later stage trials. In fact, Phase II testing of our wholly-owned huC242-DM4 TAP compound is expected to begin imminently."

Genentech began Phase I evaluation of trastuzumab-DM1 in April 2006, reported initial Phase I data at the San Antonio Breast Cancer (SABC) symposium in December 2006, and additional findings at the 43rd American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in June 2007. The Phase II study now underway assesses trastuzumab-DM1 in patients with HER2-expressing metastatic breast cancer that has progressed on treatment with Herceptin(R) (trastuzumab) plus chemotherapy.

The milestone was earned under the 2000 agreement granting Genentech the exclusive right to develop products using ImmunoGen's maytansinoid TAP technology and linkers with therapeutic antibodies to HER2, as amended in 2006 to enable ImmunoGen to earn increased milestone payments with achievement of agreed upon process development milestones. Genentech is responsible for product development, manufacturing, and commercialization.

