



**Neovacs announces that its TNF $\alpha$ -kinoid candidate for the treatment of Crohn's disease has been rated as one of the most promising drugs entering Phase II trials in a new Thomson Reuters survey**

**Paris, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009** -- Neovacs, a biotech company pioneering the development of anti-cytokine and anti-viral regulation protein therapeutic vaccines, today announced that its TNF $\alpha$ -kinoid candidate for the treatment of Crohn's disease (currently undergoing a Phase I/II clinical study in South Africa) had been rated as the most promising drug entering Phase II trials by Thomson Pharma (a Thomson Reuters' subsidiary) in a recent survey.

The survey was published by Thomson Pharma's industry experts in December 2008 and identifies the most promising drugs that are changing clinical phase; Neovacs' TNF $\alpha$ -kinoid candidate heads the list.

Néovacs CEO Guy-Charles Fanneau de La Horie emphasized his satisfaction: *"we are delighted with this review, which confirms the value of our unique, innovative approach via active immunisation of TNF $\alpha$ -kinoid for the treatment of Crohn's disease. This new therapeutic strategy will enable us to deliver a more effective, patient-friendly treatment in rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease and psoriasis - today's most dynamic pharmaceutical markets."*

[The ongoing Phase I/II dose-increase clinical study](#) includes between 12 and 18 patients with an active form of Crohn's disease and will evaluate the kinoid's safety and immunogenicity over the forthcoming weeks. Interim results are expected later this year.

**About TNF $\alpha$ -dependent auto-immune diseases**

These diseases are mainly related to bones & joints (rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis), the digestive tract (Crohn's disease and haemorrhagic rectocolitis) and the skin (psoriasis). In the 7 main developed countries alone (USA, Japan, the UK, Germany, France, Italy and Spain), there are 9.3 million people with bone & joint diseases, 2.1 million with digestive diseases and 16.5 million with psoriasis (Datamonitor, 2007).

## **About Neovacs**

Neovacs is a spin-off from the Pierre & Marie Curie University in Paris and was founded on 1993 by Professor Daniel Zagury, one of France's most eminent immunologists and AIDS experts. Neovacs holds a broad patent portfolio and is developing several therapeutic vaccines for the treatment of AIDS, cancer and auto-immune & allergic diseases. Neovacs is acknowledged as a pioneer in the development of novel therapeutic vaccines against human cytokines (kinoids) and immunosuppressive viral proteins (toxoids). At present, monoclonal antibodies are widely used to neutralize cytokines and treat patients suffering from cytokine-related diseases. In contrast to exogenous therapies with monoclonal antibodies, Neovacs' therapeutic vaccines induce a powerful, natural polyclonal antibody response in the patient.

Neovacs' key investors are Truffle Capital, Novartis Venture Fund and OTC Asset Management.

Neovacs' most advanced program (the TNF $\alpha$  kinoid) is currently being tested in a Phase I/II clinical study in patients suffering from Crohn's disease. As part of a collaboration with the company BMD, Neovacs recently received significant public financial support from OSEO (the French state innovation agency) for a Phase II study with TNF $\alpha$  kinoid in patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and who have developed an immune response against the monoclonal antibodies used to treat the condition. The IFN $\alpha$  kinoid program is part-funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR).

For further information on Neovacs, visit the website: [www.neovacs.com](http://www.neovacs.com)

*Disclaimer: the development of new drug technologies is difficult, erratic and unpredictable. Neovacs' forecasts and future economic performance depend on research that has yet to be performed and on a number of other factors. The company's future economic performance may differ significantly from that currently forecast.*

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