Vaccinex to Report Promising New Efficacy Data for SIGNAL-AD Phase 1b/2 trial of Pepinemab at Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD) Conference on October 31, 2024

10/24/24

In addition to cognitive benefit, pepinemab is believed to preserve vascular integrity in brain, a key consideration to avoid toxicity in Alzheimer's disease

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Oct. 24, 2024 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Vaccinex, Inc. (Nasdaq: VCNX), a clinical-stage biotechnology company pioneering a differentiated approach to treating Alzheimer's disease (AD) and cancer through the inhibition of Semaphorin 4D (SEMA4D), today announced that it will **present promising new efficacy and safety data for its randomized, double-blind, phase 1b/2 SIGNAL-AD study of pepinemab treatment for Alzheimer's disease at the Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD) Conference in Madrid, on October 31, 2024**. Elizabeth Evans, PhD, Chief Operating Officer and Senior VP Discovery and Translational Medicine, will present results of the study in a podium presentation.

Presentation title: **Results of SIGNAL-AD, a randomized, phase 1b/2 trial to evaluate safety and efficacy of pepinemab, anti-SEMA4D antibody believed to block reactive astrogliosis, in patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and Mild Dementia due to AD**

Presenter: Elizabeth Evans, PhD

Date: Thursday October 31, 2024, 2:55 PM Central European Time, 9:55 AM EDT.

Venue: Madrid Marriott Auditorium Hotel and Conference Center

What can we expect to learn from results of this study?

- Vaccinex scientists discovered and published that Semaphorin 4D (SEMA4D), a molecule that binds to high affinity plexin-B1 receptors expressed on astrocytes in the brain, is highly upregulated on stressed or damaged neurons during progression of Alzheimer's Disease (AD)
- Astrocytes, which are key brain cells that support the health and function of neurons, undergo extensive changes in morphology and gene expression when SEMA4D binds to their receptors. They switch from normal supportive functions to neurotoxic inflammatory activity that is believed to aggravate and accelerate progression of AD.
- The Company's hypothesis, which is being tested in the SIGNAL-AD study, is that treating with pepinemab antibody that binds SEMA4D can block signaling through astrocyte receptors and slow or prevent the damaging consequences of astrocyte activation.
- The Company has previously reported that antibody blockade of SEMA4D appears to protect healthy astrocyte functions and to slow disease progression in patients with Huntington's disease.
- Key outcomes of the SIGNAL-AD study include the impact of pepinemab treatment on cognitive decline as well as biomarkers of disease progression.
- Deposition of Aβ amyloid in the brain is currently the earliest recognized event in the pathologic cascade leading to AD. Aggregates of Aβ are believed to trigger a series of subsequent events, including astrocyte reactivity and formation of toxic tau tangles in neurons, which are believed to be key drivers of neurodegeneration. Levels of soluble biomarkers, such as astrocyte protein glial fibrillary acidic protein and phosphorylated tau peptide (p-tau 217), are, therefore, key biomarkers of disease progression, and it is important to characterize expression of these biomarkers in relation to treatment effects.
- Some currently approved drugs have been reported to compromise the integrity of brain vasculature leading to inflammation and microhemorrhages. Vaccinex will report evidence from new preclinical models suggesting beneficial effects of pepinemab treatment on brain vasculature.

The SIGNAL-AD study was funded in part by a grant from the Alzheimer's Association as well as by investments from the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF).

About Pepinemab
Pepinemab is a humanized IgG4 monoclonal antibody designed to block SEMA4D, which can otherwise bind to plexin-B1 receptors to trigger collapse of the actin cytoskeleton in cells and lead to loss of homeostatic functions of astrocytes and other glial cells in the brain and of dendritic cells in immune tissue. Pepinemab appears to have been well-tolerated with a favorable safety profile in multiple clinical trials in different neurological and cancer indications.

About Vaccinex Inc.
Vaccinex, Inc. is pioneering a differentiated approach to treating slowly progressive neurodegenerative diseases and cancer through the inhibition of semaphorin 4D (SEMA4D). The Company's lead drug candidate, pepinemab, blocks SEMA4D, a potent biological effector that it believes triggers

damaging inflammation in chronic diseases of the brain and prevents infiltration and activation of immune cells in tumors. Pepinemab is being studied as a monotherapy in the Phase 1b/2 SIGNAL-AD study in Alzheimer's Disease, and the Company has previously published promising Phase 2 data in Huntington's disease. Pepinemab could be an important contributor to combination therapy in AD. In oncology, pepinemab is being evaluated in combination with KEYTRUDA® in the Phase 1b/2 KEYNOTE-B84 study in recurrent or metastatic head and neck cancer (HNSCC) and in combination with BAVENCIO® in a Phase 1b/2 study in patients with metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PDAC). The oncology clinical program also includes several investigator-sponsored studies in solid tumors including breast cancer and melanoma.

Vaccinex has global commercial and development rights to pepinemab and is the sponsor of the KEYNOTE-B84 study which is being performed in collaboration with Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp, a subsidiary of Merck and Co, Inc. Kenilworth, NJ, USA. Additional information about the study is available at: clinicaltrials.gov.

KEYTRUDA is a registered trademark of Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co. Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA. BAVENCIO®/avelumab is provided by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, previously as part of an alliance between the healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and Pfizer.

Forward Looking Statements

To the extent that statements contained in this press release are not descriptions of historical facts regarding Vaccinex, Inc. ("Vaccinex," "we," "us," or "our"), they are forward-looking statements reflecting management's current beliefs and expectations. Such statements include, but are not limited to, statements about expectations and objectives with respect to the results and timing of the SIGNAL-AD clinical trial; expectations with respect to compliance with Nasdaq listing standards; our plans, expectations and objectives with respect to the results and timing of the SIGNAL-AD and KEYNOTE-B84 clinical trials; the use and potential benefits of pepinemab in R/M HNSCC, lung cancer, metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PDAC) and other indications; the potential for benefits as compared to single agent KEYTRUDA® or BAVENCIO®; expectations with respect to the collaboration of Merck,; and other statements identified by words such as "anticipate," "believe," "plans," "schedule," "being," "will," "appears," "expect," "ongoing," "potential," "promising," "suggest", and similar expressions or their negatives (as well as other words and expressions referencing future events, conditions, or circumstances). Forward-looking statements involve substantial risks and uncertainties that could cause the outcome of our research and pre-clinical development programs, clinical development programs, future results, performance, or achievements to differ significantly from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, among others, uncertainties inherent in the execution, cost and completion of preclinical studies and clinical trials, that interim and preliminary data may not be predictive of final results and does not ensure success in later clinical trials, uncertainties related to regulatory approval, risks related to our dependence on our lead product candidate pepinemab, the possible delisting of our common stock from Nasdaq if the Company is unable to regain and sustain compliance with the Nasdaq listing standards, and other matters that could affect our development plans or the commercial potential of our product candidates. Except as required by law, the Company assumes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements. For a further discussion of these and other factors that could cause future results to differ materially from any forward-looking statement, see the section titled "Risk Factors" in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the other risks and uncertainties described in the Company's annual year-end Form 10-K and subsequent filings with the SEC.

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Source: Vaccinex, Inc.