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PR

Singapore, 11th April 2012

SG Austria acquires world-wide rights for in vivo production method for antibodies

Singapore based biotech company SG Austria, the leading living cell encapsulation company, has acquired all rights to a patent family claiming the secretion of antibodies and antibody-like molecules from encapsulated cells. The technology allows continuous, steady state, secretion of therapeutic antibodies from the implanted cells, thereby avoiding the typical peaks and troughs associated with more conventional antibody delivery systems and immunization schemes. The inventors demonstrated safe, long term antibody production after a single implantation of the beads in mouse models as well as the use of the technology in a therapeutic setting to protect against a lethal virus disease. In principle, the technology can be used to treat any virus induced disease for which neutralising antibodies can be generated such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), West Nile virus, the SARS causing coronavirus and new variants of influenza virus. In addition, the technology can be used to improve current monoclonal antibody therapies for cancer treatment such as Herceptin, Rituxan, Avastin, Erbitux and Mylotarg.

Brian Salmons, CEO of SG Austria, stated "We are delighted that the Exclusive Worldwide License for this exciting technology has been assigned to SG Austria since this is an important application for our living cell encapsulation technology".

About Austrianova:

Austrianova is a biotech company that utilizes a proprietary, novel living cell encapsulation technology for mammalian ("Cell-in-a-Box®") and bacterial ("Bac-in-a-Box®") cells. Cell-in-a-Box® protects the encapsulated living cells from rejection by the immune system, allows cells to be easily transported, stored and implanted at specific sites in patients. The technology, which has been proven safe in clinical trials carried out in Europe, allows companies to develop one generic cell line for use as a living pharmaceutical in all patients suffering from a particular disease. Bac-in-a-Box® is a similar protective device for probiotic and other bacteria.

Austrianova Singapore Pte Ltd

20 Biopolis Way, #05-518 Centros, Singapore 138668
Tel: +65 6779 3867 Fax: +65 6774 5569
Registered in Singapore No. 200705334K

www.austrianova.com

Austrianova Thailand Ltd

Pakpirom Natia, 279-1 Chaleamprakiet, R9 soi 30
Dokmai Prawed, Bangkok 10250, Thailand
Registered in Thailand No. 0105556106087

CEO/Managing Director: Dr Brian Salmons