Novartis survey shows psoriasis patients want treatment effect beyond clear skin

- New patient preference survey confirms that patients value clear skin the most, but expect additional benefits from their treatment, such as proven long-term efficacy and safety data and no injection site reactions.

- A separate ranking incorporating additional characteristics showed that effectiveness in treating multiple manifestations of psoriatic disease was also important.

- The number of injections per dose and injection frequency were least important to patients according to the ranking analysis.

Basel, September 12, 2018 – Novartis, a leader in immuno-dermatology, announced today new data from a patient preference survey showing psoriasis patients want their treatment to go beyond just clear skin and safety. This study of 300 psoriasis patients is being presented during a poster session at the 27th European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress in Paris, France.

Results confirmed that clear skin is the most preferred treatment attribute, which is consistent with previous patient preference surveys in psoriasis. Results also show patients expect additional benefits from their treatment that are not traditionally assessed in patient surveys, including the number of years of proven efficacy and safety data in large clinical trials and no injection site reactions.

In a separate ranking incorporating additional characteristics, patients ranked the effectiveness in treating multiple manifestations of psoriatic disease (including PsA, nail, palmoplantar and scalp), and complete symptom relief, as being important, after risk of side effects and clear skin (including time to achieve clear skin). Least important were the number of injections per dose and injection frequency.

“It’s relevant to understand from psoriasis patients which additional benefits from their treatment they want besides clear skin and safety,” said Professor Matthias Augustin, Director Institute of Health Care Research in Dermatology and Nursing, University of Hamburg. “From the findings of this survey, consistent and sustained long term efficacy and safety from large clinical studies, no pain at injection site or efficacy in all manifestations of psoriatic disease could be influential when choosing a treatment for moderate-to-severe psoriasis.”

“The survey will help Novartis and dermatologists better understand patient preference in selecting psoriatic disease treatment options,” stated Sam Khalil, PhD, Head Worldwide Medical Affairs, Immunology, Hepatology and Dermatology. “It supports Novartis goal of leadership in immuno-dermatology and our commitment to improving patient care. Reimagining medicine for patients, starts by listening to what patients truly want and need.”

Psoriatic disease is complex and multifaceted. Up to 40% of psoriasis patients may develop PsA. In the long term, up to 90% of psoriasis patients may also develop nail psoriasis,
palmoplantar psoriasis (of the palms of the hands and soles of the feet), or scalp psoriasis. These manifestations are associated with a greater burden on patients’ life.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology’s guidelines, psoriasis treatments should be tailored to the patient’s situation and preference. A greater understanding of patients’ preferences for moderate-to-severe psoriasis treatment is central to improving models of shared patient-doctor decision making. These results provide additional insight into the patients’ perspective of the psoriasis treatment options available.

**About the patient preference study**

The aim of the patient preference study was to quantify the relative patient preferences for five selected attributes that may differentiate among biologic treatments for moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis. The data was collated from an online discrete choice experiment (DCE) survey from 300 US respondents with a self-reported physician diagnosis of moderate-to-severe psoriasis. Levels of attributes were based on existing clinical information for current biologic treatments of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis.

In addition, patients ranked the importance of an expanded list of treatment attributes, which included the five DCE attributes plus five additional psoriasis-relevant treatment attributes, in a separate and exploratory series of direct questions.

**About psoriasis**

Psoriasis is a distressing and painful autoimmune disease that affects more than 125 million people worldwide. It is a debilitating condition associated with a significant emotional and physical daily burden. In the long-term, psoriasis can also lead to other conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, depression and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) — which up to 40% of patients with psoriasis may develop.

Plaque psoriasis is the most common form of the disease and appears as raised, red skin patches covered with a silvery white build-up of dead cells. Most patients with psoriasis will also develop difficult-to-treat forms of the disease which appear on the scalp, nails, palms of the hands or soles of the feet and are associated with further pain, decreased mobility and functional impairment.

**About Novartis Immunology & Dermatology**

Novartis is a global leader in Immunology & Dermatology. We are dedicated to transforming the lives of people living with immunologic diseases, focusing on immunodermatology, rheumatology and specialty liver diseases. Our Immunology & Dermatology pipeline includes multiple compounds in liver disease and other immunological areas where high unmet medical needs exist.

**Disclaimer**

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can generally be identified by words such as “potential,” “can,” “will,” “plan,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “look forward,” “believe,” “committed,” “investigational,” “pipeline,” “launch,” or similar terms, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential marketing approvals, new indications or labeling for the investigational or approved products described in this press release, or regarding potential future revenues from such products. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements are based on our current beliefs and expectations regarding future events, and are subject to significant known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. There can be no guarantee that the investigational or approved products described in this press release will be submitted or approved for sale or for
any additional indications or labeling in any market, or at any particular time. Nor can there be any guarantee that such products will be commercially successful in the future. In particular, our expectations regarding such products could be affected by, among other things, the uncertainties inherent in research and development, including clinical trial results and additional analysis of existing clinical data; regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; global trends toward health care cost containment, including government, payor and general public pricing and reimbursement pressures; our ability to obtain or maintain proprietary intellectual property protection; the particular prescribing preferences of physicians and patients; general political and economic conditions; safety, quality or manufacturing issues; potential or actual data security and data privacy breaches, or disruptions of our information technology systems, and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG’s current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

About Novartis
Novartis provides innovative healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, cost-saving generic and biosimilar pharmaceuticals and eye care. Novartis has leading positions globally in each of these areas. In 2017, the Group achieved net sales of USD 49.1 billion, while R&D throughout the Group amounted to approximately USD 9.0 billion. Novartis Group companies employ approximately 125,000 full-time-equivalent associates. Novartis products are sold in approximately 155 countries around the world. For more information, please visit http://www.novartis.com.

Novartis is on Twitter. Sign up to follow @Novartis at http://twitter.com/novartis
For Novartis multimedia content, please visit www.novartis.com/news/media-library
For questions about the site or required registration, please contact media.relations@novartis.com

References
1. Feldman S, et al. Exploring Patient Preferences for the Treatment of Moderate to Severe Psoriasis: a Discrete Choice Experiment Study in the US. Abstract presented at EADV, 2018

###
Novartis Media Relations
Central media line: +41 61 324 2200
E-mail: media.relations@novartis.com

Eric Althoff
Novartis Global Media Relations
+41 61 324 7999 (direct)
+41 79 593 4202 (mobile)
eric.althoff@novartis.com

Friedrich von Heyl
Novartis Global Pharma Communications
+41 61 324 8984 (direct)
+41 79 749 0286 (mobile)
friedrich.vonheyl@novartis.com

Novartis Investor Relations
Central investor relations line: +41 61 324 7944
E-mail: investor.relations@novartis.com

Central
Samir Shah +41 61 324 7944
Pierre-Michel Bringer +41 61 324 1065
Thomas Hungerbuehler +41 61 324 8425
Isabella Zinck +41 61 324 7188

North America
Richard Pulik +1 212 830 2448
Cory Twining +1 212 830 2417