

AC Immune Announces the Selection of Tau Small Molecules for Clinical Development in Alzheimer's disease

- **Tau small molecules (Tau Morphomers) demonstrate target-specific reduction of pathological Tau as well as cognitive and functional improvement**
- **Significant reduction of microglia activation enhances the benefits on Tau pathology**
- **Tau Morphomers are capable of crossing the blood brain barrier and show a promising safety profile**
- **Selected Tau Morphomers have entered IND/CTA* enabling studies; Phase 1 to commence by the end of 2018**

Lausanne, Switzerland, April 5, 2018 – AC Immune SA (NASDAQ: ACIU), a Swiss-based, clinical stage biopharmaceutical company with a broad pipeline focused on neurodegenerative diseases, today announced that several Tau Morphomer candidates have demonstrated target-specific reduction of pathological Tau and cognitive and functional improvement in proof-of-concept studies in Alzheimer's disease. In addition to the Tau inhibition, a significant parallel reduction of microglia activation and neuroinflammation has been observed; another key factor in Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases. Tau Morphomers are the first candidates derived from AC Immune's proprietary Morphomer™ platform generating therapeutic CNS small molecules with high selectivity for misfolded proteins in multiple proteinopathies.

Prof. Andrea Pfeifer, CEO of AC Immune, said: "AC Immune has one of the largest Tau pipelines in the industry and our various therapies intervene at key points in the pathway of Alzheimer's disease. The specifically designed Tau Morphomers have a unique mode of action, inhibit intracellular Tau pathology the source of Tau spreading and reduce neuroinflammation. Hence, they are well-positioned to be used in mono- and combination therapies of neurodegenerative diseases."

Prof. Andrea Pfeifer will present at the H.C. Wainwright Global Life Sciences Conference:

Le Meridien Plaza Hotel
Monte Carlo, Monaco
April 8-10, 2018

Session: Monday, April 9th, 9:25-9:50am CET
Salon Atlantic W (2nd Floor)
Link to [Webcast](#)

About the Company's Tau pipeline

The Company's broad Tau pipeline covers the full range of approaches: small molecules (Morphomers), antibodies, vaccines and diagnostics.

Product candidate	Target	Target Indication	Partner	Status
ACI-35 (Anti-pTau vaccine)	Tau	AD ¹ treatment	Janssen Pharmaceuticals	Phase 1b
Anti-Tau antibody	Tau	AD treatment	Genentech*	Phase 2
Morphomer Tau (Tau inhibitor, small molecule)	Tau	AD treatment		Pre-clinical
Tau-PET² imaging agent	Tau	Diagnostics; AD and PSP ³	Piramal Healthcare	Advancing to longitudinal study

¹ Alzheimer's disease

² Positron emission tomography

³ Progressive supranuclear palsy

* Genentech, a member of the Roche group

About Tau Morphomers

Several chemical series of small molecules (Morphomers™) have been identified which selectively and potently reduce toxic intracellular misfolded and aggregated Tau.

Targeting intracellular misfolded and aggregated Tau is widely recognized as an important and attractive approach for interfering with the spread of Tau pathology throughout the brain. The activity of Tau may act as a seed that induces native endogenous Tau forms to misfold and aggregate into toxic species.

In proof-of-concept Tauopathy models, reduction of Tau pathology was also accompanied by a reduction of associated neuroinflammatory markers – another key pathologic feature of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

Lead compounds have been identified which display excellent ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination or excretion) and pharmacokinetics properties suitable for targeting the central nervous system. Two candidates in clinical studies are currently undergoing further preclinical safety assessment, with the goal to initiate a clinical Phase^o1 study by end 2018.

About the Morphomer™ technology platform

The rational chemical design enables AC Immune to generate small molecules, also known as Morphomers™, which bind highly specifically to misfolded proteins, break up neurotoxic aggregates and inhibit their aggregation and seeding. Other key assets of the robust library of Morphomers include promising CNS drug features such as excellent brain penetration, bioavailability and metabolic stability which are important for the development of both therapeutic and diagnostic agents for multiple neurodegenerative diseases.

Three therapeutic (Morphomer Tau, Morphomer Abeta and Morphomer a-syn) and two diagnostic development candidates (Tau-PET imaging agent and a-syn-PET imaging agent) originate from the Morphomer™ technology platform.

About Tau in Alzheimer's disease and neurodegenerative diseases

It is becoming increasingly clear that Alzheimer's disease develops because of a complex series of events that take place in the brain over a long period of time. Two proteins – Tau and amyloid-beta (Abeta) – are recognized as major hallmarks of AD. Pathological forms of Tau aggregate inside neurons to form neurofibrillary tangles, and appear to propagate by cell-to-cell spread between neurons. By contrast, Abeta-containing plaques and oligomers form outside the brain cells of people with AD. Tau protein is mostly present in neurons and functions as a component of the cytoskeleton inside the cells. Misfolded Tau protein aggregates in AD and other Tau-related neurodegenerative diseases (e.g. progressive supranuclear palsy, frontotemporal dementia and others). In AD, accumulation of Tau pathology occurs later than the accumulation of Abeta pathology. The progression of Tau pathology throughout the brain is closely associated with the onset and progression of cognitive decline, underscoring the importance of Tau-targeted therapies.

About AC Immune

AC Immune is a clinical stage Swiss-based biopharmaceutical company focused on neurodegenerative diseases with five product candidates in clinical trials. The Company designs, discovers and develops therapeutic and diagnostic products intended to prevent and modify diseases caused by misfolding proteins. AC Immune's two proprietary technology platforms create antibodies, small molecules and vaccines designed to address a broad spectrum of neurodegenerative indications, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD). The Company's pipeline features nine therapeutic and three diagnostic product candidates. The most advanced of these is crenezumab, a humanized anti-amyloid- β monoclonal IgG4 antibody that targets monomeric and aggregated forms of amyloid- β , with highest affinity for neurotoxic oligomers. Crenezumab is currently in Phase 3 clinical studies for AD, under a global program conducted by the collaboration partner Genentech (a member of the Roche group). Other collaborations include Biogen, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Nestlé Institute of Health Sciences, Piramal Imaging and Essex Bio-Technology.

Forward looking statements

This press release contains statements that constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements are statements other than historical fact and may include statements that address future operating, financial or business performance or AC Immune's strategies or expectations. In some cases, you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as "may," "might," "will," "should," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "projects," "potential," "outlook" or "continue," and other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are based on management's current expectations and beliefs and involve significant risks and uncertainties that could cause actual

results, developments and business decisions to differ materially from those contemplated by these statements. These risks and uncertainties include those described under the captions “Item 3. Key Information – Risk Factors” and “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects” in AC Immune’s Annual Report on Form 20-F and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and AC Immune does not undertake any obligation to update them in light of new information, future developments or otherwise, except as may be required under applicable law. All forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.

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