



**ABLYNX TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL DATA FOR ITS
ANTI-IL-6R NANOBODY, VOBARILIZUMAB,
A POTENTIAL BEST-IN-CLASS TREATMENT FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Data from the Phase IIb study in patients with moderate-to-severe disease already being treated with
methotrexate to be presented at the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA)
Annual Scientific Meeting**

GHENT, Belgium, 9 February 2017 – Ablynx [Euronext Brussels: ABLX; OTC: ABLY] announced that today it will present additional data from the Phase IIb RA combination study of its anti-IL-6R Nanobody®, vobarilizumab, at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Canadian Rheumatology Association, being held from 8-11 February 2017 in Ottawa, Ontario (Canada). These data will be presented in two posters which will be available on the Ablynx website shortly after the conference.

In this 24-week, double-blind, international study, patients were randomised to receive subcutaneously administered placebo or one of four dose regimens of vobarilizumab, in addition to methotrexate. The primary endpoint was the proportion of patients achieving an ACR20 response at week 12. The secondary endpoints included assessments of higher levels of ACR response and disease activity (DAS28_{CRP}). Adverse events and routine safety parameters including laboratory assessments were also recorded.

The data show that in patients with active RA despite use of methotrexate, treatment with vobarilizumab (150mg q4w, 150mg q2w and 225mg q2w) had a positive impact on disease activity with a compelling safety profile. Overall, the results support the advancement of vobarilizumab into Phase III development.

About vobarilizumab

Vobarilizumab targets the interleukin 6 pathway via its IL-6 receptor (IL-6R). IL-6 is a pro-inflammatory cytokine that plays a role in T-cell activation, production of acute phase proteins in response to inflammation, induction of immunoglobulin production, and stimulation of osteoclast differentiation and activation. Vobarilizumab (26kD) is an anti-IL-6R Nanobody linked to an anti-human serum albumin (HSA) Nanobody (to increase the *in vivo* half-life of the molecule). Twenty-four-week data from a Phase I/IIa proof-of-concept study of ALX-0061 (vobarilizumab) in combination with methotrexate were published in [February 2013](#), followed by the signing of a global exclusive option licensing deal with AbbVie in [September 2013](#) for the development and commercialisation of vobarilizumab in RA and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

In [July 2016](#), Ablynx announced strong topline results from a 12-week Phase IIb study of vobarilizumab as a monotherapy in patients with moderate-to-severe RA which demonstrated that vobarilizumab was very effective and resulted in ACR20, ACR50 and ACR70 scores of up to 81%, 49% and 24% respectively at week 12. Moreover, vobarilizumab induced clinical remission (based on DAS28_{CRP} <2.6) in up to 41% of patients, as compared to 27% for tocilizumab-treated patients, and it had a favourable safety profile at all administered doses.

In [August 2016](#), Ablynx reported compelling results from a 24-week Phase IIb study of vobarilizumab administered as a combination therapy with methotrexate (MTX) in patients with moderate-to-severe RA. ACR20, ACR50 and ACR70 scores at week 24 were high and vobarilizumab had a rapid and strong impact on disease activity with up to 49% of vobarilizumab-treated patients achieving clinical remission (based on DAS28_{CRP}) at week 24.

Collectively the impressive effects on clinically relevant efficacy endpoints, such as ACR70 and DAS28 remission, confirm its potential to be a best-in-class drug candidate in RA. Importantly, the collective results also confirmed the favourable safety profile of vobarilizumab in a larger patient population and the potential for convenient monthly administration.

An open-label extension study in RA patients is currently ongoing (94% roll-over rate) as well as a Phase II study in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). The results from both of these studies are expected in 2018.

About Ablynx

[Ablynx](#) is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the development of [Nanobodies®](#), proprietary therapeutic proteins based on single-domain antibody fragments, which combine the advantages of conventional antibody drugs with some of the features of small-molecule drugs. Ablynx is dedicated to creating new medicines which will make a real difference to society. Today, the Company has more than [45 proprietary and partnered programmes](#) in development in various therapeutic areas including inflammation, haematology, immuno-oncology, oncology and respiratory disease. The Company has collaborations with multiple pharmaceutical companies including AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eddingpharm, Merck & Co., Inc., Merck KGaA, Novartis, Novo Nordisk and Taisho Pharmaceuticals. The Company is headquartered in Ghent, Belgium. More information can be found on www.ablynx.com.

For more information, please contact:

Ablynx

Dr Edwin Moses

CEO

t: +32 (0)9 262 00 07

m: +32 (0)473 39 50 68

e: edwin.moses@ablynx.com

Marieke Vermeersch

Director IR & Corporate Communications

t: +32 (0)9 262 00 82

m: +32 (0)479 49 06 03

e: marieke.vermeersch@ablynx.com

 [@AblynxABLX](#)

Ablynx media/analyst relations:

FTI Consulting

Julia Phillips, Brett Pollard, Mo Noonan, Matthew Moss

t: +44 20 3727 1000

e: ablynx@fticonsulting.com

Disclaimer

Certain statements, beliefs and opinions in this press release are forward-looking, which reflect the Company or, as appropriate, the Company directors' current expectations and projections about future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. These risks, uncertainties and assumptions could adversely affect the outcome and financial effects of the plans and events described herein. A multitude of factors including, but not limited to, changes in demand, competition and technology, can cause actual events, performance or results to differ significantly from any anticipated development. Forward looking statements contained in this press release regarding past trends or activities should not be taken as a representation that such trends or activities will continue in the future. As a result, the Company expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release any update or revisions to any forward-looking statements in this press release as a result of any change in expectations or any change in events, conditions, assumptions or circumstances on which these forward-looking statements are based. Neither the Company nor its advisers or representatives nor any of its parent or subsidiary undertakings or any such person's officers or employees guarantees that the assumptions underlying such forward-looking statements are free from errors nor does either accept any responsibility for the future accuracy of the forward-looking statements contained in this press release or the actual occurrence of the forecasted developments. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release.