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Mount Sinai researchers find new Alzheimer's disease treatment promising

Preliminary findings in Phase IIA trial point to natural compound NIC5-15's potential

(New York, NY – July 12, 2009) – Researchers at Mount Sinai School of Medicine have found that a compound called NIC5-15, might be a safe and effective treatment to stabilize cognitive performance in patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease. The two investigators, Giulio Maria Pasinetti, M.D., Ph.D. , and Hillel Grossman, M.D., presented Phase IIA preliminary clinical findings at the Alzheimer's Association 2009 International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease (ICAD) in Vienna on Sunday, July 12.

NIC5-15's potential to preserve cognitive performance will be further evaluated in a Phase IIB clinical trial. Early evidence suggests that NIC5-15 is a safe and tolerable natural compound that may reduce the progression of Alzheimer's disease-related dementia by preventing the formation of beta-amyloid plaque, a waxy substance that accumulates between brain cells and impacts cognitive function. .

"With Alzheimer's disease affecting 5.2 million Americans, another 5 million with early-state disease, and nearly a half million new cases reported annually, treatments like NIC5-15 would make a significant difference in the lives of many Alzheimer's patients," said Dr. Pasinetti, Professor of Psychiatry, Professor of Neuroscience and Professor of Geriatrics and Adult Development, in the Department of Psychiatry at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. "We are hopeful that the follow up clinical study will support this preliminary evidence."

"There are no FDA-approved Alzheimer's disease modifying drugs available today," said Dr. Hillel Grossman, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Co-Director of the Clinical Research Core of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and Clinical Director of the Mount Sinai Memory and Aging Center. "Current drugs approved for use help maintain cognitive function, but only for a limited time. NIC5-15 is part of a new class of natural compound we found to have the potential

of precluding the generation of β -amyloid and, eventually, attenuating cognitive deterioration in preclinical models of Alzheimer's disease."

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The study was conducted at the Mount Sinai Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), a nationally renowned center of excellence since 1984. ADCR is a comprehensive research facility and clinical program dedicated to the study and treatment of both normal aging and Alzheimer's disease. The Center is supported by the National Institute on Aging, a branch of the National Institutes of Health. Humanetics Corporation, manufacturers of NIC5-15, sponsored the study. Phase IIB clinical trials on NIC5-15 are expected to begin later this year.

Disclosure: Dr. Pasinetti has a patent pending for the use of NIC5-15 in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The patent application was filed on his behalf by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Pasinetti and the School of Medicine could benefit financially from the results of this trial.

About The Mount Sinai Medical Center

The Mount Sinai Medical Center encompasses The Mount Sinai Hospital and Mount Sinai School of Medicine. The Mount Sinai Hospital is one of the nation's oldest, largest and most-respected voluntary hospitals. Founded in 1852, Mount Sinai today is a 1,171-bed tertiary-care teaching facility that is internationally acclaimed for excellence in clinical care. Last year, nearly 50,000 people were treated at Mount Sinai as inpatients, and there were nearly 450,000 outpatient visits to the Medical Center. Mount Sinai School of Medicine is internationally recognized as a leader in groundbreaking clinical and basic science research, as well as having an innovative approach to medical education. With a faculty of more than 3,400 in 38 clinical and basic science departments and centers, Mount Sinai ranks among the top 20 medical schools in receipt of National Institute of Health (NIH) grants. For more information, please visit www.mountsinai.org.
