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Targepeutics, Inc. Announces Patent License Agreement with National Institutes of Health

Targepeutics, Inc. announces that the company has entered into a license agreement with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for commercial rights to ten US patents: Nos. 5, 614,191; 5,919,456; 6,518,061; 4,892,827; 5,696,237; 5,863,745; 6,051,405; 5,705,156; 5,512,658 and 5,328,984. Combined with Targepeutics' other exclusively licensed issued patents and several pending applications, these additionally patents give Targepeutics broad rights to commercialize its Genetically Engineered Interleukin 13 (IL-13) platform. The agreement was negotiated under the lead counsel of Jorge Goldstein of Sterne Kessler Goldstein & Fox PLLC.

The patents licensed from the NIH provide certain background rights for Targepeutics' Genetically Engineered IL-13 platform that includes its lead compound, Glioblast-13, a singly mutated IL-13 molecule combined with a derivative of Pseudomonas exotoxin. Glioblast-13 and further generations of mutated IL-13 of the entire platform were designed to be more specific, safe and potent than the wild type-based IL-13 compounds. Comparative studies performed to date have shown that the mutated IL-13 compounds have a safer and more potent therapeutic profile than wild type IL-13 based compounds.

Targepeutics' Genetically Engineered IL-13 platform is expected to yield more specific compounds with multiple mutations of the IL-13 molecule described in the recently issued patents. This platform will explore products for both therapeutic and diagnostic applications. The specificity and safety profile to date of these mutants opens up the possibility of treating cancers expressing the IL-13 receptor alpha 2, such as brain, pancreatic, head and neck, melanoma and gastric cancers. Targepeutics envisions using the targeting mutated IL-13's to carry cytotoxins or radiation to these cancers. These applications are currently hampered by the nonspecific nature of wild type IL-13 based compounds that appear to target vital organs as well as tumors.

Targepeutics is a biopharmaceutical company developing selective molecularly targeted therapeutics to fight cancer. Currently, Targepeutics' three pharmaceutical platforms are Targepeutics' Genetically Engineered Interleukin-13, Immunotherapy (applications in cancer and asthma), and Anti-tumor Progression (targeting growth and ability of solid tumors to create new blood vessels). Targepeutics is based in Hershey, Pennsylvania and is privately held.

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