October 7, 2015

Nektar Submits Investigational New Drug Application (IND) for NKTR-214 To Treat Solid Tumor Malignancies

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 7, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- Nektar Therapeutics (NASDAQ:NKTR) today announced that it has submitted an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for NKTR-214, its lead immuno-oncology candidate. NKTR-214 is a CD122-biased immune-stimulatory cytokine that is designed to stimulate the patient's own immune system to destroy cancer cells. The company plans to initiate a Phase 1/2 clinical study by the end of 2015. The study will evaluate the safety, tolerability and efficacy of NKTR-214 in patients with solid tumor malignancies and will include expansion cohorts that will evaluate NKTR-214 both as a single-agent and in combination with a checkpoint inhibitor.

"As a new cytokine with biased receptor activity and an antibody-like dosing schedule, NKTR-214 could emerge as a differentiated immuno-oncology therapy that specifically stimulates T-cell growth to fight cancer," said Stephen Doberstein, PhD, Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of Nektar. "In preclinical studies with NKTR-214, we not only observed single-agent efficacy in multiple tumor models, but when administered in combination with a checkpoint inhibitor, we see a dramatic immune-educating vaccine-like effect with NKTR-214. We are excited to start our first-in-human study and we expect to have initial data from the dose-escalation phase of the trial by the second half of 2016."

The Phase 1/2 clinical program will be conducted at multiple clinical sites including MD Anderson Cancer Center and Yale Cancer Center. In addition to the Phase 1/2 clinical program, Nektar and MD Anderson will conduct translational research to identify predictive biomarkers that can be used in the future development of NKTR-214.

About NKTR-214
NKTR-214 is a CD122-biased immune-stimulatory cytokine that is designed to preferentially stimulate the expansion and maintenance of CD8-positive effector T cells, which are tumor-killing cells found naturally in the body. CD122, which is also known as the Interleukin-2 (IL-2) receptor beta subunit, is a key signaling receptor that is known to increase the proliferation of CD8-positive effector T cells.[1] These tumor-killing cells comprise a key component of the tumor infiltrating lymphocytes that provide cell-mediated anti-tumor effects.[1] By biasing activation to the CD122 receptor, NKTR-214 enhances the generation of CD8-positive T cells in the tumor.

In preclinical studies, a single dose of NKTR-214 resulted in an approximate 400-fold AUC exposure within the tumor compared with an equivalent dose of aldesleukin, an existing IL-2 therapy. This increase potentially enables, for the first time, an antibody-like dosing regimen for a cytokine.[2]

At the Inaugural CRI-CIMT-EATI-AACR Immunotherapy Conference in New York in September 2015, Nektar presented data demonstrating that NKTR-214 induces durable and specific anti-tumor immunity as a single agent and when combined with checkpoint inhibitors in preclinical models. As a single agent, NKTR-214 demonstrated efficacy in multiple preclinical models. In combination with either anti-CTLA4 or anti-PD-1 checkpoint inhibitor therapies, NKTR-214 produced durable anti-tumor immunotherapeutic effects, which persisted long after the termination of dosing. In a preclinical tumor re-challenge study, sequential dosing of anti-CTLA-4 followed by NKTR-214 resulted in durable and complete responses. At 142 days following the final dose, with no additional treatment, the complete responders demonstrated sustained resistance to multiple tumor re-challenges. In highly-resistant established melanoma tumor models, treatment with NKTR-214 resulted in a controlled, sustained and biased T-cell activating signal and a mean ratio of CD8-positive T cells to CD4-positive regulatory T-cells (which can suppress tumor killing) of 450:1 in the tumor infiltrating lymphocytes.

About Nektar
Nektar Therapeutics has a robust R&D pipeline in pain, oncology, hemophilia and other therapeutic areas. In the area of pain, Nektar has an exclusive worldwide license agreement with AstraZeneca for MOVANTIK™ (naloxegol), the first FDA-approved once-daily oral peripherally-acting mu-opioid receptor antagonist (PAMORA) medication for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation (OIC), in adult patients with chronic, non-cancer pain. The product is also approved in the European Union as MOVENTIG® (naloxegol) and is indicated for adult patients with OIC who have had an inadequate response to laxatives. The AstraZeneca agreement also includes NKTR-119, an earlier stage development program that is a co-formulation of MOVANTIK and an opioid. NKTR-181, a wholly-owned mu-opioid analgesic molecule for chronic pain conditions, is in Phase 3 development. NKTR-171, a wholly-owned new sodium channel blocker being developed as an oral therapy for the treatment of peripheral neuropathic pain, is in Phase 1 clinical development. In hemophilia, ADYNOVATE™ [Antihemophilic Factor

(Recombinant)], a longer-acting PEGylated Factor VIII therapeutic has been filed for approval in the U.S. by partner Baxalta Inc. In anti-infectives, Amikacin Inhale is in Phase 3 studies conducted by Bayer Healthcare as an adjunctive treatment for intubated and mechanically ventilated patients with Gram-negative pneumonia.

Nektar's technology has enabled nine approved products in the U.S. or Europe through partnerships with leading biopharmaceutical companies, including AstraZeneca's MOVANTIK™, UCB's Cimzia® for Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis, Roche's PEGASYS® for hepatitis C and Amgen's Neulasta® for neutropenia.

Nektar is headquartered in San Francisco, California, with additional operations in Huntsville, Alabama and Hyderabad, India. Further information about the company and its drug development programs and capabilities may be found online at http://www.nektar.com.

MOVANTIK™ is a trademark and MOVENTIG® is a registered trademark of the AstraZeneca group of companies.

ADYNOVATE is a trademark of Baxalta Inc.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements
This press release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as: "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "expect," "believe," "should," "may," "will" and similar references to future periods. Examples of forward-looking statements include, among others, statements we make regarding the therapeutic potential of NKTR-214 based on preclinical findings and the value and potential of our technology and research and development pipeline. Forward-looking statements are neither historical facts nor assurances of future performance. Instead, they are based only on our current beliefs, expectations and assumptions regarding the future of our business, future plans and strategies, anticipated events and trends, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict and many of which are outside of our control. Our actual results may differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Therefore, you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements include, among others, (i) the IND for NKTR-214 is currently under review by the FDA and until the 30-day review period has elapsed, there is the possibility that the start of the Phase 1 clinical study may be delayed until any and all issues raised by the FDA have been addressed in a satisfactory manner; (ii) positive preclinical efficacy findings, such as those for NKTR-214 reported in this press release, are subject to inherent scientific and medical uncertainties typical for this early stage of drug development and may not be confirmed in clinical trials; (iii) our drug candidates and those of our collaboration partners are in various stages of clinical development and the risk of failure is high and can unexpectedly occur at any stage prior to regulatory approval for numerous reasons including safety and efficacy findings even after positive findings in previous preclinical and clinical studies; (iv) the timing of the commencement or end of clinical trials and the commercial launch of drug candidates may be delayed or unsuccessful due to regulatory delays, slower than anticipated patient enrollment, manufacturing challenges, changing standards of care, evolving regulatory requirements, clinical trial design, clinical outcomes, competitive factors, or delay or failure in ultimately obtaining regulatory approval in one or more important markets; (v) scientific discovery of new medical breakthroughs is an inherently uncertain process and the future success of the application of our technology platform to potential new drug candidates is therefore highly uncertain and unpredictable and one or more research and development programs could fail; (vi) patents may not issue from our patent applications for our drug candidates including NKTR-214, patents that have issued may not be enforceable, or additional intellectual property licenses from third parties may be required; and (vii) the outcome of any existing or future intellectual property or other litigation related to our drug candidates and those of our collaboration partners. Other important risks and uncertainties set forth in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 6, 2015. Any forward-looking statement made by us in this press release is based only on information currently available to us and speaks only as of the date on which it is made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

Contact:
Investors
Jennifer Ruddock of Nektar Therapeutics
415-482-5585

Media
Nadia Hasan of WCG
212-257-6738

1. Boyman, J., et al., Nature Reviews Immunology, 2012, 12, 180-190.
2. Hoch U, at al. AACR; Mol Cancer Ther. 2013;12(11 Suppl):Abstract nr B296.
3. Data on file. Nektar Therapeutics