



Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program Newsletter July 2007 Edition

IN THE NEWS

Drug Shows Promise In Treating Liver Cancer

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-livercancer04jun04.1.6611482.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true>

“A new drug looks poised to become the first effective treatment for liver cancer, one of the most common and deadliest cancers in the world whose incidence has been rising in the United States, doctors here said Sunday. In a large clinical trial, the drug, called Nexavar, extended the lives of patients by almost three months, or 44 percent.”

Launch of Several Novel Therapies Will Drive Dramatic Near-Term Growth in the Hepatitis C Virus Drug Market

http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release.116869.shtml

WALTHAM, Mass., June 5 – “Decision Resources, one of the world's leading research and advisory firms for pharmaceutical and healthcare issues, finds that the drug market to treat the hepatitis C virus will experience dramatic growth through 2011 as the launch of several novel therapies, beginning in 2009, significantly alters the standard of care.”

XTL Provides Update On Phase I Clinical Trial Of XTL-2125

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/06-06-2007/0004602696&EDATE=>

VALLEY COTTAGE, New York, June 6 – “XTL Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. announced today that it has completed the analysis of results from a Phase I clinical trial with XTL-2125 in patients with chronic Hepatitis C. This Phase I trial was a placebo controlled, randomized, dose escalating study, which evaluated the safety, tolerability and antiviral activity of single and multiple doses of XTL-2125.”

When HIV and Liver Disease Co-Exist

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=72871>

“Since successful antiretroviral therapies have made HIV a treatable condition, more HIV patients who are also infected with hepatitis B or C are experiencing the progression of their liver disease. In the face of this novel challenge, experts in the field convened to share information and opinions on the management of such patients. The conference discussions are summarized in June issue of *Hepatology*, a journal published by John Wiley & Sons on behalf of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD).”

Human Genome Sciences Announces Positive Final Results Of Phase 2b Trial of Albuferon

<http://www.pharmalive.com/News/index.cfm?articleid=449337&categoryid=40>

ROCKVILLE, Md., June 07, 2007 – “Human Genome Sciences, Inc. today announced the top-line final results of a Phase 2b clinical trial of Albuferon(R) (albinterferon alfa-2b) in combination with ribavirin in treatment-naive patients with genotype 1 chronic hepatitis C. The Company expects to make a full presentation of the final results at an appropriate scientific meeting later in 2007.”

Only 25% Of HIV-Positive Patients With Acute HCV Accepting HCV Therapy [UK]

<http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/DEB35EE0-7EB4-45DB-A844-0C3A293C0EAF.asp>

“Only a quarter of HIV-positive individuals diagnosed with acute hepatitis C infection are accepting anti-hepatitis C therapy, according to data from one of the UK’s leading sexual health clinics presented to the Third International Workshop on HIV and Hepatitis Coinfection in Paris on June 7th.”

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Reports 2007 Pipeline Progress

<http://www.medadnews.com/News/Index.cfm?articleid=450513>

CAMBRIDGE, Mass--Jun 12, 2007 – “Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated today detailed recent progress in its clinical pipeline in conjunction with its participation at the Goldman Sachs 28th Annual Healthcare Conference. A live webcast of Vertex's presentation will be available on Vertex's website, www.vrtx.com, beginning at 2:00 p.m. PDT (5:00 p.m. EDT) on June 13, 2007.”

ViroPharma Announces Completion of Enrollment in 500mg BID Arms Of HCV-796 Phase 2 Study

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/biotechnology/20070612/NETU03012062007-1.html>

EXTON, Pa., June 2007 – “ViroPharma Incorporated today announced that patient enrollment has been completed in the 500mg BID arms of the ongoing Phase 2 study in hepatitis C patients with HCV-796, a unique orally dosed non nucleoside hepatitis C viral polymerase inhibitor that interferes with the replication of hepatitis C virus (HCV). The Phase 2 study is being conducted with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, a division of Wyeth, ViroPharma's partner in development of HCV-796.”

Valopicitabine Combined with Standard of Care Cleared Hepatitis C Virus in 72% of Patients Who Completed 12 Weeks of Treatment in a Phase II Trial

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=74022>

CAMBRIDGE, MA, USA | June 12, 2007 | “Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. today announced results from a phase II study designed to evaluate triple combination therapy, consisting of valopicitabine (NM283), Idenix's lead drug candidate for the treatment of hepatitis C, pegylated interferon and ribavirin compared to pegylated interferon and ribavirin, the current standard of care, in patients infected with the genotype-1 strain of the hepatitis C virus (HCV).”

Hep C Alert: 3 Get Bug From 1 Doctor

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/06/15/2007-06-15_hep_c_alert_3_get_bug_from_1_doctor.html

“Authorities are contacting 4,500 patients of a doctor found to have infected at least three people with hepatitis C, city health officials said yesterday. The unidentified anesthesiologist, who practices at 10 outpatient locations in Manhattan, is not working while officials investigate how the doctor transmitted the virus.”

CLINICAL TRIALS, COHORT STUDIES, AND PILOT STUDIES

Randomized placebo controlled phase I/II trial of alpha-galactosylceramide for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C. Veldt BJ, et al. J Hepatol. 2007 Jun 6; [Epub ahead of print]

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Anemia associated with pegylated interferon-alpha2a and alpha2b therapy in hemodialysis patients. Espinosa M, et. al. Clin Nephrol. 2007 Jun;67(6):366-73.

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Ribavirin Up-Regulates the Activity of Double-Stranded RNA-Activated Protein Kinase and Enhances the Action of Interferon- alpha against Hepatitis C Virus. Liu WL, et. al. J Infect Dis. 2007 Aug 1;196(3):425-34.

Epub 2007 Jun 25.

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Association of Hepatitis C Seropositivity With Increased Risk for Developing End-stage Renal Disease. Tsui JI, et. al., Arch Intern Med. 2007 Jun 25;167(12):1271-6.

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seropositivity were at increased risk for developing ESRD treated with dialysis or transplantation.

Hepatic steatosis is associated with increased frequency of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with hepatitis C-related cirrhosis. Pekow JR, et. al. *Cancer*. 2007 Jun 15;109(12):2490-6.

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Incidence rates of hepatocellular carcinoma in the U.S. and Denmark: Recent trends. Jepsen P et. al., *Int J Cancer*. 2007 Jun 7; [Epub ahead of print]

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Chronic hepatitis C infection and sicca syndrome: a clear association with HLA DQB1*02. Smyth CM, et. al. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2007 Jun;19(6):493-8.

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Hepatic steatosis correlates with the postoperative recurrence of hepatitis C virus-associated hepatocellular carcinoma. Takuma Y et. al., *Liver Int*. 2007 Jun;27(5):620-6.

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Hepatitis C viremia increases the association with type 2 diabetes mellitus in a hepatitis B and C endemic area: an epidemiological link with virological implication. Huang JF et. al., *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2007 Jun;102(6):1237-43.

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The antinuclear antibody is associated with a more advanced fibrosis and lower RNA levels of hepatitis C virus in chronic hepatitis C patients. Hsieh MY et. al., *J Clin Pathol*. 2007 Jun 1; [Epub ahead of print]

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Predictive value of rapid virological response and early virological response on sustained virological response in HCV patients treated with pegylated interferon alpha-2a and ribavirin. Yu JW, et. al. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2007 Jun;22(6):832-6.

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Potent induction therapy with interferon and ribavirin combination therapy does not achieve a higher sustained virological response rate in chronic hepatitis C with genotype 1b and high hepatitis C virus RNA level. Enomoto S et al., *Hepatol Res*. 2007 Jun 15; [Epub ahead of print]

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Double filtration plasmapheresis and interferon combination therapy for chronic hepatitis C patients with genotype 1 and high viral load. Fujiwara K et al., *Hepatol Res*. 2007 Jun 15; [Epub ahead of print]

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Oral branched-chain amino acid supplementation improves the oxidized/reduced albumin ratio in patients with liver cirrhosis. Fukushima H et al., *Hepatology*. 2007 Jun 15; [Epub ahead of print]
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Evaluation of long-term biochemical responses to combination therapy of interferon plus ribavirin in those infected with hepatitis C virus genotype 1b and high baseline viral load. Sezaki H et al., *Hepatology*. 2007 Jun 15; [Epub ahead of print]
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A large-scale, multicentre, double-blind trial of ursodeoxycholic acid in patients with chronic hepatitis C. Omata M, et. al., *Gut*. 2007 Jun 25; [Epub ahead of print]
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Early virological response in children with chronic hepatitis C treated with pegylated interferon and ribavirin. Kowala-Piaskowska A et. al., *Infection*. 2007 Jun;35(3):175-9.
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Incidence and characterization of serum transaminases elevations in pegylated interferon and ribavirin treated patients with chronic hepatitis C. Thurairajah PH et. al., *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2007 Jun 1;25(11):1293-300.
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Studies of Therapy with Thymosin {alpha}-1 in combination with Pegylated Interferon {alpha}-2a and Ribavirin in Nonresponder Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C. Camerini R, et. al. *Ann N Y Acad Sci*. 2007 Jun 28; [Epub ahead of print]
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Efficacy and anticarcinogenic activity of interferon for hepatitis C virus-related compensated cirrhosis in patients with genotype 1b low viral load or genotype 2. Hasegawa E, et. al. *Hepatology*. 2007 Jun 25; [Epub ahead of print]
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Response prediction and treatment tailoring in chronic hepatitis C virus genotype 1 infection. Lindh M, et. al. *J Clin Microbiol*. 2007 Jun 20; [Epub ahead of print]
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Hepatitis C Virus Dynamics during Natural Infection Are Associated with Long-Term Histological Outcome of Chronic Hepatitis C Disease. Sullivan DG et. al., *J Infect Dis*. 2007 Jul 15;196(2):239-48. Epub 2007 Jun 7.
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Multiple-dose pharmacokinetics of peginterferon alfa-2b in patients with renal insufficiency. Gupta SK et. al., Br J Clin Pharmacol. 2007 Jun 6; [Epub ahead of print]
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BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCE, PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES

HFE C282Y gene variant is a risk factor for the progression to decompensated liver disease in chronic viral hepatitis C subjects in the Czech population. Pácal L et. al., Hepatol Res. 2007 Jun 15; [Epub ahead of print]
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and its earlier onset in the subjects with chronic viral hepatitis C in the Czech population.

Anti-hepatitis C virus activity of albinterferon alfa-2b in cell culture. Liu C et. al., Hepatol Res. 2007 Jun 15; [Epub ahead of print]
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Modulation of RANTES expression by HCV core protein in liver derived cell lines. Ruggieri A et. al., BMC Gastroenterol. 2007 Jun 12;7(1):21 [Epub ahead of print]
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Sensitivity of hepatitis C virus to cyclosporine A depends on nonstructural proteins NS5A and NS5B. Fernandes F, et. al. Hepatology. 2007 Jun 28; [Epub ahead of print]
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Antiviral effects of amantadine and iminosugar derivatives against hepatitis C virus. Steinmann E, et al. Hepatology. 2007 Jun 28; [Epub ahead of print]
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HIV/HCV CO-INFECTION

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