



PRESS RELEASE

AVESTHAGEN LIMITED begins Phase III Human Clinical Studies for its Avesta™ brand of plant –based BioActives

Bangalore, March 20, 2007- AVESTHAGEN LIMITED, India's leading knowledge based Systems Biology Company, today announced the start of Phase III human clinical trials for its recently launched Avesta™ brand of botanical bioActives. AVESTHAGEN LIMITED and Manipal AcuNova Limited, Bangalore have a strategic agreement for conducting the Phase III human clinical studies for diabetes management for Avesthagen's branded bioactives Teestar™, Aspand™ and Cincata™. These products have been developed by the bionutrition division of AVESTHAGEN LIMITED from different medicinal plants selected from its proprietary database - ADePt™, and validated using MetaGrid™, its patented comprehensive constituent profiling technology.

Teestar™ acts by intervening with carbohydrate metabolism. The efficacy of Teestar™ was evaluated in pre-clinical studies wherein it showed significant reduction of blood glucose levels.

Aspand™ acts by inhibiting Dipeptidyl peptidase IV and by sensitising insulin. Aspand™ was tested on different cell lines in-house in different assays, where Aspand™ treated group showed inhibition of Dipeptidyl peptidase IV and better glucose homeostasis as compared to the control.

Cincata™ acts by inhibiting α -glucosidase and by acting synergistically with insulin, thereby increasing its potency. Cincata™ was tested on different cell lines in-house in different assays, where Cincata™ treated group showed inhibition of α -glucosidase, and better glucose homeostasis as compared to the control.

During pre-clinical studies all three bioactives recorded a significant decrease in blood sugar levels in diabetic animal models and also recorded a significant reduction in the level of glycated haemoglobin HbA1c in comparison to the controls.

Speaking on the launch, Dr Viloo Morawala Patell, Founder, Chairperson and Managing Director of AVESTHAGEN LIMITED said, "Avesthagen has had an exciting start to the year and that excitement continues. The initiation of this Phase III human trial represents an important strategic milestone for Avesthagen because it demonstrates the continued advancement of our product portfolio of novel therapeutics for wide spread diseases. We are pursuing aggressively the Phase III clinical development of these bioActives to establish the parameters of the clinical trial design that can lead to regulatory approval."

About AVESTHAGEN LIMITED

AVESTHAGEN LIMITED (www.avesthagen.com) is India's leading integrated systems biology platform company that focuses on achieving convergence of food, pharma and population genetics leading to predictive preventive and personalized healthcare. It employs 600 people worldwide and is headquartered in Bangalore. Avesthagen Limited has established world class, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities in Bangalore. It began business operations in 2001. Since its inception Avesthagen has grown into one of India's leading healthcare technology group in India, and its activities include, in addition to its agri-biotechnologies product pipeline, development of clinically validated botanical bioActives, derived from Indian medicinal plants, as well as the development of a pipeline of bio-similar drugs. Avesthagen Limited has four strategic business units: bioPharmaceuticals, bioNutrition, bioAgriculture and Science & Innovation. Its partners include multiple top 10 global companies in each of its fields of research. Avesthagen Limited collaborates at every stage in the value chain with appropriate partners, both public and private, for access to and exchange of technology and overall commercial expertise to leverage the 'India advantage'.

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