

Amgen completed its acquisition of Immunex Corporation on July 15, 2002. This archived Immunex press release is provided for reference only.

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Immunex Moves Interleukin-1 Receptor Type II into Human Clinical Testing

Molecule Represents Potential Expansion of Inflammatory Franchise

SEATTLE - Immunex Corporation (Nasdaq: IMNX) announced today that it filed an investigational new drug application (IND) with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to begin Phase 1 clinical studies with Interleukin-1 (IL-1) Receptor Type II to assess tolerability.

"Moving IL-1 Receptor Type II into the clinic months ahead of our projections represents advancement toward company's goal of bringing two molecules into human clinical testing this year," said Peggy Phillips, executive vice president and chief operating officer for Immunex. "This molecule also represents an excellent potential opportunity to add to our market leadership in inflammatory disease."

IL-1 is known to be a key mediator of inflammatory disease. The immune system needs a certain amount of IL-1 to function properly. Too much IL-1 in the body can lead to the development of diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, multiple myeloma, multiple sclerosis and Crohn's disease.

"Immunex has pioneered exploration into the IL-1 system having cloned several IL-1 receptors," said Kendall Mohler, Ph.D, vice president of biologic sciences, Immunex Corporation. "Based on what we have seen in pre-clinical studies, the IL-1 Receptor Type II may be the most efficient therapeutic approach to regulate IL-1."

A natural regulator of IL-1, the IL-1 Receptor Type II is found on the surface of cells and also in a soluble (free floating) form in the body. IL-1 Receptor Type II works by competitively binding IL-1. In pre-clinical models, this binding prevents IL-1 from binding to cell-surface receptors, potentially preventing a signal to the cell which can lead to inflammatory disease.

Phase 1 studies will be initiated in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Single and multiple dosing schedules will be evaluated. Results of the studies are expected mid-2002.

Immunex Corporation is a leading biopharmaceutical company dedicated to improving lives through immune system science innovations.

NOTE: Except for the historical information contained herein, this news release contains forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. Among the factors that could cause actual results and timelines to differ materially are risks associated with research and clinical development, regulatory approvals, supply capabilities and reliance on third-party manufacturers, product commercialization, competition, litigation and other risk factors listed from time to time in reports filed by Immunex with the SEC, including but not limited to risks described under the caption "Important Factors That May Affect Our Business, Our Results of Operations and Our Stock Price" within our most recently filed Form 10-Q. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release represent our judgment as of the date of this release. Immunex undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements. An electronic version of this news release -- as well as additional information about Immunex of interest to investors, customers, future employees and patients -- is available on the Immunex home page at www.immunex.com.