



## **Abgenix Initiates Phase 2 Clinical Trial Of ABX-EGF In Prostate Cancer**

FREMONT, CA, January 3, 2002 - Abgenix, Inc. (Nasdaq: ABGX) announced today the initiation of a Phase 2 clinical trial of ABX-EGF in patients with prostate cancer. ABX-EGF is a fully human monoclonal antibody specific for the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFr), a receptor identified in many solid tumor types. This clinical trial, the fourth Phase 2 study of ABX-EGF, is designed to assess the safety and efficacy of ABX-EGF in patients with hormone resistant prostate cancer without metastasis. Abgenix is developing ABX-EGF in collaboration with Immunex Corporation.

This multi-center, open-label Phase 2 study will enroll up to 50 patients. Patients will receive intravenous infusions of 2.5 mg/kg of ABX-EGF weekly over an 8-week treatment cycle, for up to 5 cycles. The primary efficacy endpoint of the study will be measured by prostate specific antigen (PSA) response rates (decrease of PSA level by >50% compared to baseline).

"We are pleased to advance our clinical oncology program with the start of this fourth Phase 2 trial for ABX-EGF," stated R. Scott Greer, chairman and chief executive officer of Abgenix. "Our goal is to provide effective, antibody-based therapeutic options for cancer patients."

Preliminary results of an ongoing, dose-escalating Phase 1 clinical trial of ABX-EGF show that it is well tolerated and shows biological activity at low doses. Thus far, three patients in the Phase 1 study, one of which had prostate cancer, have achieved stable disease or minor response. Other Phase 2 studies of ABX-EGF that are currently ongoing are in kidney cancer, non-small cell lung cancer and colorectal cancer.

### About ABX-EGF

ABX-EGF is a fully human monoclonal antibody that targets the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFr), which is over-expressed on a variety of cancers including lung, breast, bladder, prostate, colorectal, kidney and head and neck cancer. It has been demonstrated that cancer cells can become dependent on growth signals mediated through the EGFr for their survival. In mouse models, ABX-EGF monotherapy has been shown to both eradicate established human tumors and block the growth of human tumors.

### About Prostate Cancer

Over 90% of prostate cancers demonstrate over-expression of EGFr. Prostate cancer is the most common malignancy among men in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer death in men with approximately 35,000 deaths annually. Hormonal castration has been the cornerstone of therapy for prostate cancer for over 50 years. Unfortunately, many patients will ultimately develop hormone resistant prostate cancer (HRPC) and to date, no therapeutic regimens have been shown to prolong survival.

Abgenix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of human therapeutic antibodies. The company's technology platform, which includes XenoMouse® and XenoMaxT technologies, enables the rapid generation and selection of high affinity, fully human antibody product candidates to a variety of disease targets. Abgenix leverages its leadership position in human antibody technology by building a diversified product portfolio through the development of its own internal proprietary products and through the establishment of licensing arrangements with multiple pharmaceutical, biotechnology and genomics companies. Abgenix's proprietary products are currently in clinical trials for the treatment of cancer and inflammatory diseases. For more information on Abgenix, visit the company's website at [www.abgenix.com](http://www.abgenix.com).

*Statements made in this press release about ABX-EGF clinical trials, Abgenix's technology, product development activities and collaborative arrangements other than statements of historical fact, are forward looking statements and are subject to a number of uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the statements made, including risks associated with the success of clinical trials, the progress of research and product development programs, the regulatory approval process, competitive products, future capital requirements and the extent and breadth of Abgenix's patent portfolio. Please see Abgenix's public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for information about risks that may affect Abgenix.*

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