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FDA Assigns "Priority Review" Status to ENBREL® (etanercept) sBLA For Treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis

Priority Review is Granted Based on Need for Disease Treatment

SEATTLE - Immunex Corporation (NASDAQ: IMNX) and Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, a division of American Home Products (NYSE: AHP), announced today that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted "priority review" status for Immunex's supplemental Biologics License Application (sBLA) to use ENBREL® (etanercept) in the treatment of psoriatic arthritis. ENBREL is the first product ever reviewed by the FDA to treat the signs and symptoms of psoriatic arthritis.

The FDA notified Immunex in writing today that the sBLA for ENBREL was accepted for filing. Separate from the letter of notification, the FDA has confirmed that the agency has assigned the ENBREL sBLA a "priority review" status. Priority review status indicates that the FDA is to act on the ENBREL sBLA within six months of submission date. Immunex submitted its sBLA for ENBREL on July 16, 2001.

"We look forward to working with the FDA to expeditiously complete the review process for ENBREL in the treatment of psoriatic arthritis," said Leslie Garrison, senior vice president of clinical research and development at Immunex. "Because this patient population of 300,000 people has yet to see an FDA-approved treatment for psoriatic arthritis, we are pleased to be moving forward with the review process under 'priority review' status."

Acceptance of the sBLA filing does not indicate that a license has been or will be issued nor does it represent any evaluation of the adequacy of the data submitted.

ABOUT PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Like rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease of the joints and connective tissue. The disease causes joint pain and swelling that can lead to crippling and, unlike RA, also causes inflamed and irritated scaly red patches of skin throughout the body. It is a progressive and debilitating disease and because there are no treatments specifically approved for psoriatic arthritis, doctors often use therapies approved for RA, including non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs). There are approximately 300,000 patients with psoriatic arthritis in the United States, and the disease affects both men and women usually between the ages 30 and 50. Psoriatic arthritis patients are generally treated by rheumatologists and dermatologists.

ABOUT ENBREL

An application for marketing approval of ENBREL was fast-tracked by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1998. Six months after the application was submitted, the FDA approved ENBREL for reducing the signs and symptoms of moderately to severely active RA in patients who have had an inadequate response to one or more DMARDs. The following year, the FDA approved ENBREL for reducing signs and symptoms of moderately to severely active polyarticular-course juvenile rheumatoid arthritis in patients who have had an inadequate response to one or more DMARDs. In June 2000, the FDA approved ENBREL for reducing signs and symptoms and inhibiting the progression of structural damage in patients with moderately to severely active RA. ENBREL is the only TNF inhibitor approved for use as a first-line therapy for RA.

ENBREL acts by binding TNF, one of the dominant cytokines or regulatory proteins that play an important role in both normal immune function and the cascade of reactions that cause the inflammatory process of RA

and psoriatic arthritis. ENBREL competitively inhibits binding of TNF molecules to the TNF receptor sites. The binding of ENBREL to TNF renders the bound TNF biologically inactive, resulting in significant reduction in inflammatory activity.

SINCE THE PRODUCT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED, SERIOUS INFECTIONS, SOME INVOLVING DEATH, HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN PATIENTS USING ENBREL. MANY OF THESE INFECTIONS OCCURRED IN PATIENTS WHO WERE PRONE TO INFECTIONS, SUCH AS THOSE WITH ADVANCED OR POORLY CONTROLLED DIABETES. RARE CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED. ENBREL SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED IN PATIENTS WITH SERIOUS INFECTIONS. DO NOT START ENBREL IF YOU HAVE AN INFECTION OF ANY TYPE OR IF YOU HAVE AN ALLERGY TO ENBREL OR ITS COMPONENTS. ENBREL SHOULD BE USED WITH CAUTION IN PATIENTS PRONE TO INFECTION. CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ENBREL OR INFECTIONS.

There have been rare reports of serious nervous system disorders such as multiple sclerosis, seizures or inflammation of the nerves of the eyes. Tell your doctor if you have ever had any of these disorders or if you develop them after starting ENBREL. There have also been rare reports of serious blood disorders, some involving death. **Contact your doctor immediately if you develop symptoms such as persistent fever, bruising, bleeding, or paleness.** It is unclear if ENBREL has caused these nervous system or blood disorders. If your doctor confirms serious blood problems, you may need to stop using ENBREL.

The most frequent adverse events in placebo-controlled clinical trials involving 349 adults were injection site reactions (ISR) (37%), infections (35%), and headache (17%). Only the rate of ISR was higher than that of placebo. The most frequent adverse events in a methotrexate-controlled clinical trial of 415 ENBREL-treated adults with early-stage RA were infections (64%), ISR (34%), and headache (24%). Only the rate of ISR was higher than that of methotrexate. In all 1,197 RA patients studied, malignancies were rare (1%). In a study of 69 patients with juvenile RA (JRA), infections (62%), headache (19%), abdominal pain (19%), vomiting (13%), and nausea (9%) occurred more frequently than in adults. The types of infections reported in JRA patients were generally mild and consistent with those commonly seen in children. Serious adverse reactions reported rarely were chicken pox (3%), gastroenteritis (3%), serious infection (2%), depression/personality disorder (1%), skin ulcer (1%), inflammation in parts of the upper digestive tract (1%), and diabetes (1%).

Immunex Corporation and Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, a division of American Home Products (NYSE: AHP), market ENBREL in North America. Other AHP affiliates market ENBREL outside of North America. Immunex manufactures ENBREL. Additional information about ENBREL, including full prescribing information, can be found on the company-sponsored Web site at (www.enbrel.com) or by calling toll-free 888-4ENBREL (888-436-2735).

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

American Home Products Corporation's Wyeth-Ayerst division is a major research-oriented pharmaceutical company with leading products in the areas of women's health care, cardiovascular disease therapies, central nervous system drugs, musculoskeletal therapies, infectious disease, hemophilia, oncology, vaccines and generic pharmaceuticals.

American Home Products Corporation is one of the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical and health care products companies. It is a leader in the discovery, development, manufacturing, and marketing of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. It also is a global leader in vaccines, biotechnology and animal health care.

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 or timelines to differ materially are risks associated with research and clinical development, regulatory approvals, our 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.