Daiichi Sankyo and Amplimmune Announce Strategic Alliance to Develop AMP-110 Therapy for Autoimmune Disease

Provides for AMP-110 program acquisition by Daiichi Sankyo following “Proof of Concept”

Tokyo, Japan (January 8, 2013) and Gaithersburg, Maryland (January 7, 2013) —Daiichi Sankyo, Co., Ltd. (hereafter, Daiichi Sankyo) and Amplimmune, Inc. (hereafter, Amplimmune) announced today that they have entered into a broad strategic collaboration to develop a new therapeutic protein, AMP-110 (B7-H4 fusion protein). The collaboration will focus on development of AMP-110, a potential immune modulation therapy for autoimmune diseases. This proprietary, first-in-class biologic works by blocking inflammatory T cell differentiation. The parties expect to initiate a Phase 1 clinical study for the compound for the treatment of an autoimmune disease indication in the first half of 2013.

Under the terms of the agreement, Daiichi Sankyo will pay Amplimmune an undisclosed option fee and provide more than $50 million to reimburse past and planned research and development costs for AMP-110, including funding for future development through a Phase 2 (Proof of Concept Study, hereafter, POC study). Amplimmune also will be eligible to receive additional program milestone payments during the collaboration period. Through the POC study, Daiichi Sankyo will have an exclusive option to acquire the AMP-110 program.

Under the terms of the agreement, Amplimmune will be responsible for manufacturing clinical supplies, regulatory filings and conducting clinical trials through a POC study in autoimmunity. Amplimmune and Daiichi Sankyo expect to collaborate on research to further elucidate the characteristic of AMP-110 and to identify potential biomarkers to predict patient response to AMP-110. If Daiichi Sankyo exercises its exclusive option to acquire the AMP-110 program, then following such acquisition Daiichi Sankyo will be solely responsible for all future development, manufacturing and commercialization.

“This collaboration strengthens our commitment to working with partners that are at the forefront of science” said Glenn Gormley, MD, PhD, global head of R&D, senior executive officer of Daiichi Sankyo. “Immune modulation therapy is one of the exciting areas of autoimmune disease research that has the potential to meet an unmet medical need. As a Global Pharma Innovator, identifying and meeting unmet medical needs is an important part of Daiichi Sankyo’s mission. We are excited to start with the first trial.”
“We are very pleased to be collaborating with Daiichi Sankyo on AMP-110” said Michael S. Richman, Amplimmune’s President and Chief Executive Officer. Richman continued, “this unique transaction allows Amplimmune to collaborate with an important and well-respected partner and positions the program for an acquisition that will provide significant value for both Daiichi Sankyo and our shareholders.”

About B7-H4 and AMP-110

The B7-H4 pathway is believed to play a key role in maintaining tolerance and controlling inflammation. B7-H4, first identified by Amplimmune scientific founder Dr. Lieping Chen, inhibits T-cell mediated inflammatory reactions. AMP-110, an Fc fusion of the extracellular domain of B7-H4, has been specifically designed to mimic the natural ability of B7-H4 to induce a co-inhibitory pathway that reduces inflammatory T cells known to contribute to autoimmune disease. Published preclinical data demonstrate the potency of AMP-110 to modulate autoimmune disease in a number of animal disease models. Given the fundamental nature of the B7-H4 pathway in balancing immune responses and preventing potential deleterious immune activation, AMP-110 has the potential to treat multiple autoimmune/inflammatory disease indications.

About Amplimmune, Inc.

Founded in 2007 and headquartered in Gaithersburg, MD, Amplimmune is focused on developing novel co-stimulatory/co-inhibitory molecules that rebalance the immune system and are intended for treating cancer, autoimmune disease, infectious disease, and transplantation. With its strong product-based focus, Amplimmune has rapidly developed three biologic product candidates: AMP-224 is in Phase 1b trials in cancer in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline; AMP-110 for autoimmune diseases in partnership with Daiichi Sankyo; and AMP-514 for cancer. Working closely with its collaborators, Amplimmune is expanding its technology base in the area of immune co-stimulatory/co-inhibitory molecules and has assembled a large foundation of reagents, models, know-how, and intellectual property to further develop its product pipeline as well as to discover novel biomarkers, ligands, and receptors. The company is funded by InterWest Partners and The Wellcome Trust. For more information, please visit www.amplimmune.com.

About Daiichi Sankyo

The Daiichi Sankyo Group is dedicated to the creation and supply of innovative pharmaceutical products to address the diversified, unmet medical needs of patients in both mature and emerging markets. While maintaining its portfolio of marketed pharmaceuticals for hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and bacterial infections, the
Group is engaged in the development of treatments for thrombotic disorders and focused on the discovery of novel oncology and cardiovascular-metabolic therapies. Furthermore, the Daiichi Sankyo Group has created a "Hybrid Business Model," which will respond to market and customer diversity and optimize growth opportunities across the value chain. For more information, please visit www.daiichisankyo.com.

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