Syndax Announces Publication of Entinostat NSCLC Data in Cancer Research

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WALTHAM, Mass., Jan. 11, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Syndax, a clinical-stage epigenetics oncology company, announced publication of data of entinostat combined with the demethylating agent Vidaza® (azacitidine) showing effect in reducing tumor burden in differentiated tumor cells in animal tumor models of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The data is being published in the January 15, 2011 issue of *Cancer Research*.

"These findings demonstrate the promise for epigenetic therapy in cancer management and provide us with important new insights to guide further development of human treatments for lung cancer," said Steven Belinsky, Ph.D., vice president for academic research, director, lung cancer program, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute. "Epigenetic therapy may circumvent the problem of tumor heterogeneity by inducing the re-expression of multiple tumor suppressor genes essential for abrogating cancer cell survival and proliferation."

The purpose of the study was to determine the efficacy of a demethylating agent, Vidaza, alone or in combination with a histone deacetylase inhibitor (HDACi), entinostat, on the growth of tumors engrafted in the lungs of the nude rat and on reprogramming of the epigenome. Researchers developed an orthotopic lung cancer model in which xenografts of human lung cancer-derived cell lines are efficiently engrafted throughout the lungs of the nude rat. The study showed that combining the HDACi entinostat with the demethylating agent Vidaza profoundly affected growth of K-ras/p53 mutant lung adenocarcinomas engrafted orthotopically in immunocompromised nude rats by targeting and ablating pleomorphic cells that occupied up to 75% of the tumor masses.

"These exciting findings of entinostat combined with Vidaza in a validated animal model of lung cancer support ongoing clinical efforts with epigenetic therapy in solid tumors and provide a foundation for identification and developm
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