Approved Biologic Therapies in Rheumatoid Arthritis Show Further Evidence of Efficacy and Reduction in Joint Damage at the 2011 European League Against Rheumatism's Congress

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NEW YORK, June 8, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- One of the major annual rheumatology conferences, the European League Against Rheumatism's Congress (EULAR), was held May 25-28 in London. Citeline, Inc., reviewed the trends and highlights from clinical trial results reported at EULAR, noting that approved biologics in rheumatoid arthritis dominated the program, comprising roughly 25% of clinical trial abstracts presented.

Updates from long-term trials for approved biologics in RA—including adalimumab, etanercept, abatacept, rituximab and tocilizumab—provided further evidence of sustained clinical efficacy by standard measures, but also extended to reductions in joint damage (by radiographic and MRI methodologies), remission induction and effective treatment of early disease. Of these approved biologics, tocilizumab trial results were the most numerous, and included several reports of treatment impact on serum lipid levels and other cardiovascular-related outcomes.

Citeline's Senior Analyst in Autoimmune/Inflammation, Claire Herman, noted that the industry-wide interest in personalized medicine was evident at EULAR, with an array of abstracts presenting results from studies aimed at identifying biomarkers and pharmacogenomic markers as predictors of response to specific approved biologics. "This research is indicative of companies' focus on carving out individual niches within this highly competitive chronic disease arena," remarks Ms. Herman.

Additionally, a number of these approved drugs' sponsors continue to focus on life-cycle management and expanded labeling, as evidenced by abstracts reporting results from trials of the subcutaneous formulation of abatacept (ALLOW and ACQUIRE), pivotal trials for Japanese approval of golimumab for RA, tocilizumab juvenile RA studies (TENDER), and rituximab combination therapies results. Trends in Trials for Approved Biologic Therapies in Rheumatoid ArthritisNumber of ab
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