

ASTERAND PLC

Asterand compound licensed to BTG is progressing well in clinical development

Asterand plc (LSE:ATD), is pleased to report the announcement by BTG (2nd April 2009) that BGC20-1531, a novel EP4 receptor antagonist for the treatment of migraine headaches, is planned to enter Phase IIa studies in H2 2009 with data anticipated in H2 2010. If clinical proof of principle is demonstrated in these studies, BTG will seek development partners to conduct Phase IIb and subsequent studies.

In a clinical study recently presented by BTG at the 18th International Headache Research Symposium in Copenhagen (6-8 March 2009), BGC20-1531 was shown to be an effective analgesic in both inflammatory and neurogenic pain induced in healthy volunteers. The data from this study provides confidence for the further development of BGC20-1531 for the effective treatment of migraine.

BTG licensed BGC20-1531 from Asterand in January 2006, completed preclinical development and entered the first Phase I trial in January 2008.

Martyn Coombs, Asterand's CEO commented:

"We are delighted to see that BGC20-1531 has completed Phase I and is moving through to the next stage of clinical development and with the news that BTG is continuing to progress this programme, having recently completed their portfolio review. The programme is a step nearer to becoming an effective treatment for migraineurs and we look forward to seeing the results from Phase IIa. In the meantime, Asterand will continue to seek opportunities for our remaining drug discovery programmes and maximise the value of our IP portfolio."

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Notes to editors

Asterand is a leading supplier of high quality human tissue and tissue-based services. Our comprehensive approach to human tissue and research services offers pharmaceutical, biotech and diagnostic companies the unique opportunity to have one company meet all of their human biomaterial needs along the continuum of drug discovery and development. Our mission is to accelerate target discovery and compound validation and enable pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to take safer and more effective drugs into the clinic.