November 30, 2016

Achillion Announces Initiation of Patient Dosing by Janssen in a Global, Short Treatment-Duration Phase 2b Study of JNJ-4178 in Chronic HCV

- Janssen initiates dosing of patients in OMEGA-1: Phase 2b study evaluating six- and eight-week treatment durations with JNJ-4178, a 3DAA combination of odalasvir, simeprevir, and AL-335, for the treatment of chronic HCV -

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Nov. 30, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- **Achillion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** (Nasdaq:ACHN) today announced the start of patient dosing in a global Phase 2b open-label OMEGA-1 study of JNJ-4178, a 3DAA combination of odalasvir, simeprevir, and AL-335, has been initiated by Janssen Research & Development, LLC., part of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), in treatment-naive and treatment-experienced patients with chronic hepatitis C virus infection (HCV) without cirrhosis.

This large, international, multi-center study is expected to enroll approximately 300 HCV patients, and is part of Janssen's global development program for JNJ-4178. Clinical trial sites are located in Europe, North America, and Asia.

The objectives of OMEGA-1 are to investigate the efficacy, safety and pharmacokinetics of JNJ-4178 (odalasvir (25mg QD), simeprevir (75mg QD), and AL-335 (800mg QD)) in treatment-naive and treatment-experienced non-cirrhotic patients with chronic hepatitis C virus genotype 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 infection. Patients in the study will receive the triple combination once daily for either 6 or 8 weeks. The primary efficacy endpoint will be the percentage of patients with a sustained virological response 12 weeks after the end of treatment (SVR12).

An ongoing Phase 2a study (‘604' study) is assessing JNJ-4178 in patients with or without compensated cirrhosis.

Further information on these trials can be found on www.clinicaltrials.gov. Study identifiers NCT02765490 and NCT02569710.

About HCV

Globally, HCV infection is a leading cause of liver disease and liver related mortality. It is currently estimated that more than 150 million people are infected with HCV worldwide including approximately 3 million people in the United States. Three-quarters of the HCV patient population is undiagnosed; it is a silent epidemic and a major global health threat. Chronic hepatitis, if left untreated, can lead to permanent liver damage that can result in the development of liver cancer, liver failure or death. Despite available treatments, there remains a significant unmet need for many patients infected with HCV.

About Achillion Pharmaceuticals

Achillion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ:ACHN) is a science-driven, patient-focused company seeking to leverage its strengths across the continuum from discovery to commercialization in its goal of providing better treatments for people with serious diseases. The company employs a highly-disciplined discovery and development approach that has allowed it to pursue best-in-class oral antiviral therapy for chronic hepatitis C (HCV) and build a platform of potent and specific complement inhibitors. Achillion is rapidly advancing its efforts to become a fully-integrated pharmaceutical company with a goal of bringing life-saving medicines to patients with rare diseases. More information is available at http://www.achillion.com

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This press release includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements. Achillion may use words such as "expect," "anticipate," "project," "intend," "plan," "aim," "believe," "seek," " estimate," "can," "focus," "will," "look forward," "goal," and "may" and similar expressions to identify such forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements also include statements about: the Company's expected plans, timing, data readouts and results from ongoing and planned clinical trials of both ACH-4471 and HCV development candidates being advanced by Janssen under the Company's collaboration with Janssen; and statements concerning the Company's strategic goals, milestone plans, and prospects. Among the important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements are risks relating to, among other things Achillion's ability to: advance the preclinical and clinical development of its complement factor D inhibitors under the timelines it projects in current and future preclinical studies and clinical trials; obtain and maintain patent

protection for its drug candidates and the freedom to operate under third party intellectual property; demonstrate in any current and future clinical trials the requisite safety, efficacy and combinability of its drug candidates; obtain and maintain necessary regulatory approvals; establish commercial manufacturing arrangements; identify, enter into and maintain collaboration agreements with third-parties, including the current collaboration with Janssen; compete successfully in the markets in which it seeks to develop and commercialize its product candidates and future products; manage expenses; manage litigation; raise the substantial additional capital needed to achieve its business objectives; and successfully execute on its business strategies. Furthermore, because Janssen is solely responsible for the development and commercialization of our HCV assets under the exclusive worldwide license we granted to it and has the deciding vote on all collaboration matters, Janssen generally has full discretion over all development plans and strategies and may not advance the HCV programs in the time frames Achillion or Janssen projects, or at all, including with regard to the current and planned phase 2a and phase 2b combination trials that include our licensed drug candidates. These and other risks are described in the reports filed by Achillion with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2016, and its subsequent SEC filings.

In addition, any forward-looking statement in this press release represents Achillion's views only as of the date of this press release and should not be relied upon as representing its views as of any subsequent date. Achillion disclaims any duty to update any forward-looking statement, except as required by applicable law.

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