



VIA Pharmaceuticals' DGAT1 Inhibitors Featured in American Diabetes Association Poster Presentation

--Preclinical Data Reported by Roche at 69th Scientific Sessions

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4, 2009 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- VIA Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: VIAP), a biotechnology company focused on the development of compounds for the treatment of cardiovascular and metabolic disease, announced today that preclinical data related to diacylglycerol acyl transferase - 1 (DGAT1) inhibitors will be presented in a poster presentation at the 69th Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association June 6, 2009 in New Orleans, LA. The poster will be presented by Roche (SWX: ROG), who licensed its DGAT1 inhibitors exclusively to VIA in December 2008. Dr. Rebecca Taub, Sr. Vice President Research & Development of VIA and a co-author on the poster, managed development of the DGAT1 program at Roche prior to joining the VIA management team.

The presentation details are as follows:

Date/Time: Saturday June 6, 2009

11:30AM - 1:30PM

6:15PM - 7:30PM

Location: Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

Session: Insulin Action - Metabolism

Title: Can DGAT Inhibition Improve Insulin Sensitivity? (Poster 1279-P)

DGAT1 (diacylglycerol acyl transferase-1) is an enzyme that catalyzes triglyceride synthesis and fat storage. Triglycerides are the principal component of fat, which is the major repository for storage of metabolic energy in the body. Overweight and obese individuals have significantly greater triglyceride levels, making them more prone to diabetes and its associated metabolic complications. DGAT1 inhibitors are believed to be an innovative class of compounds that modify lipid metabolism. In studies of obese animals, DGAT1 inhibitors have been shown to induce weight loss and improve insulin sensitization, glucose tolerance and lipid levels. These observations suggest DGAT1 inhibitors may have the potential to treat obesity, diabetes and dyslipidemia. VIA intends to identify potential clinical candidates from the compounds in this program and determine whether any can be moved into further preclinical development.

About VIA Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

VIA Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a biotechnology company focused on the development of compounds for the treatment of cardiovascular and metabolic disease. VIA's lead candidate, VIA-2291, targets a significant unmet medical need: reducing inflammation in plaque, an underlying cause of atherosclerosis and its complications, including heart attack and stroke. In addition, VIA's pipeline of drug candidates includes other compounds to address other underlying causes of cardiovascular disease: high cholesterol, diabetes and inflammation. For more information, visit: <http://www.viapharmaceuticals.com>.

Forward Looking Statements

This press release may contain "forward-looking" statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to future events or to VIA's future financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause VIA's actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by the use of words such as "may," "could," "expect," "intend," "plan," "seek," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "predict," "potential," "continue" or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements since they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond VIA's control and which could materially affect actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements.

Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations include, but are not limited to:

-- our ability to borrow additional amounts under the loan from Bay City Capital, which is subject to the discretion of Bay City

Capital;

- our ability to obtain necessary financing in the near term, including amounts necessary to repay the loan from Bay City Capital by the September 14, 2009 maturity date (or earlier if certain repayment acceleration provisions are triggered);
- our ability to control our operating expenses;
- our ability to comply with covenants included in the loan from Bay City Capital;
- our ability to maintain the listing of our common stock on NASDAQ;
- our failure to timely recruit and enroll patients for the FDG-PET clinical trial, as well as any future clinical trial;
- our failure to obtain sufficient data from enrolled patients that can be used to evaluate VIA-2291, thereby impairing the validity or statistical significance of our clinical trials;
- our ability to successfully complete our clinical trials of VIA-2291 on expected timetables and the outcomes of such clinical trials;
- complexities in designing and implementing cardiovascular clinical trials using histological examinations, measurement of biomarkers, medical imaging and atherosclerotic plaque bioassays;
- the results of our clinical trials, including without limitation, with respect to the safety and efficacy of VIA-2291;
- if the results of the ACS and CEA studies, upon further review and analysis, are revised or negated by authorities or by later stage clinical trials;
- our ability to obtain necessary FDA approvals;
- our ability to successfully commercialize VIA-2291;
- our ability to identify potential clinical candidates from the compounds in DGAT1 and move them into preclinical development;
- our ability to obtain and protect our intellectual property related to our product candidates;
- our potential for future growth and the development of our product pipeline, including the THR beta agonist candidate and the other compounds licensed from Roche;
- our ability to obtain strategic opportunities to partner and collaborate with large biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies to further develop VIA-2291;
- our ability to form and maintain collaborative relationships to develop and commercialize our product candidates;
- general economic and business conditions; and
- the other risks described under Item IA "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 on file with the SEC.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements set forth above. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and VIA undertakes no obligation to update publicly any of these statements in light of new information or future events.

SOURCE VIA Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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