

TWi Biotech secures patent for diabetes drug in Korea

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Singapore: Taiwan based TWi Biotechnology has been granted patent in Korea for its diabetes drug, AC-201, from the Korean Intellectual Property Office.

The patent includes AC-201 or its pharmaceutically acceptable salts or active metabolites for treatment of both type I and type II diabetes. The patent also covers the methods of treatment using AC-201 for type II diabetes, and provides a protection period up to year 2030. This patent adds to TWi Biotechnology's broad intellectual property portfolio for AC-201. This patent has been allowed in US, Mexico, New Zealand, China and Russia.

"We are very pleased with the allowance of our patent application in Korea for AC-201. These new patents combined will provide TWi Biotechnology intellectual property protection for AC-201 in addressing unmet medical needs as an effective treatment for type I and II diabetes," said Dr Calvin C Chen, president, TWi Biotechnology. "AC-201 has demonstrated its efficacy in reducing HbA1c levels in patients with type II diabetes in two phase II clinical trials. In addition, due to its unique mode of action in inhibiting the activation of the inflammasome, AC-201 has the potential to protect the vital organ damage associated with diabetes. We hope the drug candidate AC-201 will continue its development in Asia including Korea and will bring benefits to the vast number of diabetes patients in Asia after it obtains drug approval."

AC-201 is a first-in-class small molecule which has shown the ability to inhibit the activation and production of the inflammasome, caspase-1, and the cytokine interleukin-1Beta (IL-1Beta), and to down-regulate IL-1Beta receptors. Inhibition of the inflammasome and IL-1Beta signaling has been demonstrated to be effective in treating a variety of diseases including arthritis, gout, and diabetes mellitus (DM). The active ingredient of AC-201 has been approved for treating patients with chronic rheumatic diseases in France and subsequently in other EU and Middle Eastern countries such as Spain and Italy since the mid-1990s.

TWi Biotechnology holds two US INDs for AC-201 - one for controlling blood glucose in patients with type II diabetes and the other for treating gout in patients undertaking urate-lowering therapy. In addition to the good safety record of its active

ingredient used in treating another chronic disease, AC-201 has demonstrated safety in multiple human clinical trials including 3 phase II trials for up to 6 months treatment.