

Outcome of Helsinn's participation in ASCO 2007, Chicago 1-5 June and MASCC 2007, St. Gallen, 27-30 June

Lugano, July 2007 – The month of June saw Helsinn participate with several stimulating initiatives in the 2007 congresses American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC).

ASCO

Helsinn's presence at this year's 43rd edition of ASCO held in Chicago, US, 1-5 June, focused on its booth which presented Helsinn's new corporate image for the first time, and on interesting scientific posters on palonosetron. Helsinn's booth located in the main corridor leading to the access to the poster area attracted doctors interested in exchanging field experience with Helsinn representatives and in receiving the latest information on Aloxi and Gelclair. 250 contacts were made at the booth, of which 42% were European (above all from Italy, France and Germany) and 35% Latin American (from Argentina, Mexico and Brazil). The feedback on Aloxi and Gelclair from doctors visiting our booth was very favourable and there were many requests regarding their availability in various countries. A delegate from our American partner for Gelclair, EKR, was present for the entire period of the exhibition at the booth section dedicated to Gelclair.

The booth was also the perfect occasion to meet our Aloxi and Gelclair partners and to discuss the current on-going activities.

The booth in addition, generated several licensing-OUT contacts from companies which wish to distribute our products.

Helsinn took part in the poster session with a sponsored poster, "**Safety, pharmacokinetics and efficacy of palonosetron in pediatric patients: a multicenter, stratified, double-blind, phase 3, randomized study**", *Proc Am Soc Clin Oncol, 2007. 25, 543s, [Abstract 9570]*. (authors: Kadota R., Shen V., Messinger Y.), presented by Dr. Richard Kadota.

If we consider that the Pediatric Oncology field is very limited, this presentation which reported the clinical results of a controlled study performed in pediatrics, achieved an important success by arousing great interest among the audience.

Helsinn also presented an abstract, "**Additional binding mechanism of palonosetron to the 5-HT₃ receptor vs. first generation 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists**", *Proc Am Soc Clin Oncol, 2007. 25:713s, [Abstract 19583]*, (authors: Rojas C., Stathis M., Alt J., et al.), reporting for the first time the preliminary results of the exciting project of elucidating the features of the mechanism of action of palonosetron,

distinctively different from those of the older 5-HT₃ RAs.

Another interesting session was Dr. Steven Grunberg's investigator sponsored trial poster, ***"Efficacy of a 1-Day 3-drug antiemetic regimen for prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting induced by moderately emetogenic chemotherapy"***, *Proc Am Soc Clin Oncol, 2007. 25:520s*, [Abstract 9111]. (authors: Grunberg SM., Dugan M., Muss HB., et al.), which evidenced the positive data from a study in which palonosetron + dexamethasone + aprepitant was administered in one sole administration on day 1, obtaining a very high rate of patients protected.

MASCC

Helsinn's presence at this year's edition of MASCC in St. Gallen was certainly inspiring and rewarding.

The exhibition area was better integrated than the previous years and Helsinn's booth was well located in front of the poster area and the registration and information desks, allowing excellent visibility.

Approximately 150 contacts were made, of which 56% were from Europe, 10% from the USA and Canada, 3% from Latin America and 30% from the ROW. The majority of those visiting our booth were doctors and nurses who showed a strong interest in receiving updated information and data on our products Aloxi and Gelclair. The better represented categories at the congress were nurses followed by oncologists,

dentists and radiotherapists. Several ENT surgeons were also present. Swiss nurses counted for 24% of the contacts made at Helsinn's booth.

As seen in the previous years, the participants had a moderate knowledge of both Aloxi and Gelclair and showed particular interest in Gelclair.

Another significant moment of the event was the poster session, which saw the oral presentation of our poster on Aloxi's mechanism of action: ***"Palonosetron in contrast to Ondansetron and Granisetron, exhibits two-site binding to the 5-HT₃ receptor and causes long lasting functional inhibition even after dissociation"*** *Support Care Cancer, 2007. 15(6): 686*, [Abstract P017], (authors: Rojas C., Stathis M., Thomas A.), presented by Dr. Camilo Rojas which stimulated the curiosity of the audience as well as Opinion Leaders due to the novelty of the research and the evident results which clearly distinguish palonosetron from the first generation 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists. It is important to note how our poster was also mentioned during the discussion in the session on anti-emetics.

About Aloxi® Injection

Aloxi is currently being evaluated in a clinical program designed to evaluate its safety and efficacy in post-operative nausea and vomiting, but it is not approved for this indication. Aloxi is approved by the U.S. FDA for the prevention of acute nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of moderately and highly emetogenic cancer chemotherapy and for

the prevention of delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy. Aloxi is the first and only 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist to be indicated for the prevention of delayed chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) caused by moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy. The most common adverse reactions related to Aloxi were headache (9%) and constipation (5%). Please see the Aloxi package insert, available www.mgipharma.com and www.aloxi.com, for important additional details.

About Gelclair

Gelclair is a bioadherent oral gel with a mechanical action which provides pain relief by adhering to the mucosal surface of the mouth, soothing oral lesions of various etiologies such as medication, disease, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, irritation due to oral surgery, ageing and traumatic ulcers caused by braces and ill-fitting dentures. Gelclair is also indicated for diffuse aphthous ulcers. Patients with oral lesions - in particular mucositis due to treatment with chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy - tend to be debilitated and in poor general health. The pain and discomfort associated with oral mucositis may interfere with the ability to eat and drink and with the planned therapeutic scheme. Anything offering rapid, symptomatic relief, which would also help patients to eat and drink more easily, is much needed, in order to improve patients' quality of life. Gelclair has been developed to meet these requirements. It

contains the barrier-forming ingredients polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) and sodium hyaluronate, which form a thin adhesive layer over the oral mucosa when Gelclair is rinsed within the mouth. This barrier shields exposed or sensitised nerve endings from overstimulation during eating, drinking, speaking or even at rest. Gelclair has been shown to reduce pain and help patients to eat and drink more easily

About HELSINN HEALTHCARE

HELSINN HEALTHCARE SA is a privately owned pharmaceutical group with headquarters in Switzerland and is the worldwide licensor of palonosetron. HELSINN's core business is the licensing of pharmaceuticals in therapeutic niche areas. The company's business strategy is to in-license early stage new chemical entities and complete their development from the performance of pre-clinical/clinical studies and CMC development to the attainment of market approvals in strategic markets (U.S. and Europe). HELSINN's products are eventually out-licensed to its marketing partners for distribution. The active pharmaceutical ingredients and the finished dosage forms are manufactured at HELSINN's cGMP facilities and supplied worldwide to its customers. For more information about HELSINN, please visit the company's Web site at www.helsinn.com.

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