



THE NEWS	THE MOLECULES	THE RESULTS
<p>METABASIS THERAPEUTICS (MBRX) announced that enrollment was completed in Phase 2b clinical trial on type 2 diabetes with the drug CS-917, discovered by using Metabasis' proprietary NuMimetic™ technology and developed by Daiichi Sankyo. This proof-of-concept study is designed to evaluate safety and tolerability after three months of dosing of CS-917, as well as its effect on blood levels of the molecule HbA1c, which is an important measure of glucose control in patients with type 2 diabetes.</p>	<p>CS-917 - a prodrug of an orally active, potent and selective inhibitor of fructose-1, 6-bisphosphatase (FBPase), a regulatory enzyme in the pathway responsible for the gluconeogenesis pathway. The drug is intended for Type 2 diabetes and to reduce blood sugar levels independent of insulin levels, body weight and disease stage. Metabasis believes that CS-917 is the first product candidate to be studied in human clinical trials that is designed to directly block this pathway.</p>	<p>CS-917 was well tolerated and significantly reduced the elevated blood glucose levels.</p> <p>Oral administration of CS-917 in the morning resulted in significant lowering of post-dose fasting plasma glucose (FPG) compared to placebo.</p> <p>This study was followed by a 28-day study in 146 type 2 diabetic patients which indicated that CS-917 was most likely to be administered twice daily.</p>
<p>ALNYLAM (ALNY) announced that it presented new pre-clinical data at the "RNAi for Target Validation and as a Therapeutic" Keystone Symposium held January 28 - February 2, 2007 in Keystone, Colorado. The new results were presented RNAi targeting PCSK9 for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia and from Alnylam collaborations in Huntington's disease and neuropathic pain.</p>	<p>Small interfering RNAs (siRNAs)</p>	<p>Data demonstrated that Alnylam's small interfering RNAs (siRNAs), the molecules that mediate RNAi, achieve therapeutic silencing of disease-causing genes in animal models and that effective and clinically relevant delivery can be achieved with both direct and systemic RNAi applications.</p>
<p>AASTROM (ASTM): The firm's proprietary Tissue Repair Cells (TRCs) received an Orphan Drug Designation from the FDA for use in the treatment of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), a severe chronic disease of the heart.</p>	<p>High doses of stem and progenitor cells.</p>	<p>Early clinical evidence suggests it may be possibly slowing down or reversing disease progression DCM. Aastrom's TRCs, a proprietary product containing large numbers of stem and progenitor cells derived from a small sample of the patient's own bone marrow is intended for use as a therapeutic to induce heart tissue regeneration. If successful, TRC treatment may eliminate or delay the need for a heart transplant.</p>