

OREXIGEN(TM) THERAPEUTICS ANNOUNCES ISSUANCE OF BROAD PATENTS COVERING COMPOSITION OF ITS LEAD ANTI-OBESITY COMPOUNDS

Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc.

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OREXIGEN(TM) Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held clinical-stage neuroscience company developing novel strategic approaches to the treatment of obesity, announced that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has issued a patent covering the composition of OREXIGEN'S Excalia(TM), now in a phase IIb clinical trial for the treatment of obesity. The invention underlying this patent was made by Dr. Kishore Gadde at Duke University and covers the use of various combinations of weight-loss promoting anticonvulsants with compounds that enhance the activity of norepinephrine or dopamine. This includes the ingredients combined to make Excalia -- zonisamide, an anticonvulsant, in combination with bupropion, a norepinephrine and dopamine reuptake inhibitor. U.S. Patent No. 7,109,198 B2 was awarded to Duke University and is exclusively licensed by OREXIGEN.

The new patent complements a previous patent that similarly covers the composition of OREXIGEN's Contrave(TM), also an anti-obesity combination now in an open-label extension of a phase II/III clinical trial. Contrave is a formulation of bupropion and naltrexone, and U.S. Patent No. 5,817,665 covers various combinations of anti-depressants (e.g. bupropion) with opioid antagonists (e.g. naltrexone). This composition patent covers any use of such combinations and is not limited to weight loss. The patent, awarded to Dr. Lee Dante, is also licensed exclusively to OREXIGEN.

In awarding these patents the USPTO recognized combinations of broad categories of existing pharmaceuticals as new, protected entities that act together to produce a novel effect. Additional patent filings from OREXIGEN are pending.

OREXIGEN(TM) Therapeutics, Inc. is a privately-held clinical-stage neuroscience company in San Diego, California developing novel strategic approaches to the treatment of obesity. OREXIGEN leverages its proprietary science to design and screen drugs and drug combinations that work together in the central nervous system to enhance satiety, diminish appetite, improve energy expenditure and minimize the body's efforts to compensate for weight loss. OREXIGEN has two lead drug candidates in clinical trials, Contrave(TM) (phase II/III) and Excalia(TM) (phase IIb), along with a pipeline of earlier stage drug combinations now being tested. Each is designed to act on a specific group of neurons in the central nervous system with the goal of achieving appetite suppression and sustained weight loss. By targeting different groups of neurons OREXIGEN is working to develop compounds that each can achieve a different weight loss profile, providing rapid weight loss where required (Excalia(TM)) or emphasizing steady, sustainable weight loss where preferred (Contrave(TM)). Further information about the company can be found at www.orexigen.com.