



PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Tom Davis, President and CEO, arGentis Pharmaceuticals, LLC
901-881-8665

Weikuan Gu, PhD joins arGentis as Associate Scientific Director.

Memphis, TN—arGentis Pharmaceuticals, LLC announced today that Weikuan Gu, PhD has joined the company as Associate Scientific Director.

Dr. Gu joined the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in 2002. He obtained his PhD in 1994 from Cornell University and completed postdoctoral studies in 1996. Dr. Gu has published 102 peer reviewed publications, nine book chapters, and 63 abstracts/presentations. Dr GU was also the lead investigator who identified arGentis' ROT1 genotype marker designated as ROT1. ROT1 is a predictor of patient's response to oral immune tolerance induction. Specifically it has been identified in the use of ARG201 to treat Systemic Scleroderma patients. There are an estimated 100,000 Scleroderma patients in the US and approximately the same number in the EU.

During the Phase IIa clinical trail for ARG201, the investigators detected that approximately 30% of the patients who should have responded to the treatment did not respond. Upon further research, they identified a specific SNP that correlated highly with this response. Research had indicated that this SNP is applicable to other diseases being treated by oral immune tolerance induction. There are patents pending for ROT1.

ROT1 is an identified single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) that indicates whether a patient will respond to immune tolerance. If ROT1 is present, the patient will not respond to the oral tolerance treatment, hence it is designated “Resistance to Oral Tolerance” or ROT1. It is believed that ROT1 will identify patients in other diseases that may respond to oral tolerance treatments.

arGentis is developing ARG201, a treatment for systemic scleroderma (SSc), an autoimmune disease leading to widespread collagen build up on the skin and within the vascular structures of internal organs, resulting in comorbidities such as pulmonary hypertension, kidney and gastrointestinal track failure, pulmonary fibrosis and death. SSc is an orphan disease with approximately 100,000 patients each in the U.S. and Europe.

The mechanism of action of ARG201 is to induce immune tolerance, whereby the body ceases attacking type I collagen, a primary autoantigen in SSc. There are currently no approved therapies for the underlying cause of SSc. ARG201 has been granted orphan drug status in the US by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and in the EU by the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

arGentis™ Pharmaceuticals, located in Tennessee was established in 2007 to develop pharmaceuticals that address unmet medical needs. The mission of arGentis™ is to develop and commercialize treatments to improve the health and quality of life of the targeted patient groups and provide a fair return to our investors. The current focus is on autoimmune diseases treated primarily by Rheumatologists.