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The Sylvia Lawry Centre and Schering AG Collaborate in Prospective Study to Develop Guidelines to Improve Treatment Outcomes for Multiple Sclerosis

- First evidence-based guidelines will help decision-making regarding change of therapy -

Munich, Germany, November 9, 2005 - The Sylvia Lawry Centre (SLC) announced today a study in collaboration with Schering AG Germany (FSE: SCH; NYSE:SHR) to develop the first evidence-based guidelines to assess effectiveness of treatments for multiple sclerosis (MS). Many MS patients continue to experience some disease activity in spite of treatment with disease modifying therapies. However, it is frequently difficult to identify if a patient is responding to treatment, and to what degree. The goal of this collaboration is to optimise the management of MS by providing further tools to objectively assess effectiveness of treatment, and to support decision-making when a change of therapy is warranted.

Currently, physicians use consensus-based criteria to evaluate a patient's response to treatment. These criteria are based on parameters such as relapse frequency, accumulation of disability and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) measures.

In this study, SLC and Schering will analyze a database of placebo and natural history data consisting of some 20,000 patients from over 45 different clinical studies. The project will evaluate objective criteria that can best describe and predict disease activity in MS patients. Predictive models to determine treatment response to therapies will then be developed. These tools will allow clinicians to find the best time point for modification of treatment to optimize the outcome for a patient that is not responding to therapy.

Prof. Ludwig Kappos, University Hospital Basel, member of the Centre's executive Scientific Advisory Committee said, "This is a natural extension of previous work at the SLC, where we looked at clinical and MRI measures in placebo and natural course cohorts of patients and their value in predicting disease progression. Through this partnership with Schering, we aim to potentially develop evidence based guidelines for therapeutic decisions."

"The ultimate goal of this project is to develop an online tool that MS specialists can use to evaluate various treatment options for their patients. We have experience in developing similar tools for clinical decision making in obstetrics. Schering brings a significant amount of medical and pharmaceutical expertise to this project as well as a clear understanding of the current needs in MS disease management", said Dr. Martin Daumer, Scientific Director of the SLC.

"It is a huge challenge to translate large groups of data from clinical trials to individual patients and to identify if a patient is adequately responding to treatment. If this project succeeds, it will have major impact on future treatment decisions in MS.", said Prof. Jerry Wolinsky, University of Texas, Houston, a member of the Centre's executive Scientific Advisory Committee.

“Schering is in the vanguard of disease management of MS by working to define markers of treatment response”, said Darlene Jody, MD, Vice President and Global Head Medical Development Group Specialized Therapeutics, Schering. “We hope that by working with experts in the field, and the SLC, we can define markers that may allow the medical community to maximize current as well as future treatment of MS and to potentially improve the overall quality of life of each MS patient.”

About Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is one of the most common diseases of the central nervous system. It is estimated that over 2,000,000 people around the world have MS.

MS is the result of damage to myelin - a protective sheath surrounding nerve fibres of the central nervous system and also to nerve fibers (axons). When myelin is damaged, this interferes with messages between the brain and other parts of the body

Symptoms vary widely and include blurred vision, weak limbs, tingling sensations, unsteadiness and fatigue. For most people, MS is characterised by periods of relapse and remission eventually evolving into a more steadily progressive pattern.

The Sylvia Lawry Centre e.V.

The Sylvia Lawry Centre was established in February 2001 by the MS International Federation as an independent research centre to support research into the causes of multiple sclerosis and to accelerate the development of effective therapies, by using innovative statistical methods and state-of-the art computer technology combined with medical expertise. Nearly all major academic research groups and pharmaceutical companies involved in the development of MS therapeutics worldwide have donated placebo and natural history patient data (not treatment data) to the SLC to build a comprehensive database that now includes data from roughly 20,000 patients (80,000 patient years from 45 clinical trials). This database provides the basis for the centre's work. For more information go to www.slcmsr.org

Schering AG is a research-based pharmaceutical company. Its activities are focused on four business areas: Gynecology & Andrology, Oncology, Diagnostic Imaging as well as Specialized Therapeutics for disabling diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis. As a global player with innovative products Schering AG aims for leading positions in specialized markets worldwide. With in-house R&D and supported by an excellent global network of external partners, Schering AG is securing a promising product pipeline. Using new ideas, Schering AG aims to make a recognized contribution to medical progress and strives to improve the quality of life: making medicine work. Betaferon/Betaseron (interferon beta 1-b) has been marketed since 1993 for RRMS worldwide and since 2002 in Europe for SPMS.