



**ARPIDA COMPLETES ENROLMENT IN PHASE II “INTRAVENOUS-TO-ORAL”
SWITCH TRIAL WITH ORAL ICLAPRIM**

Reinach, Switzerland, 23 September 2008. Arpida Ltd. (SWX: ARPN) today announced the completion of enrolment in the Phase II ‘intravenous-to-oral’ switch trial with oral iclaprim in patients with complicated Skin and Skin Structure Infections (cSSSI).

The trial was designed as a multi-centre, double-blind comparative study. Patients suffering from cSSSI received intravenous (IV) vancomycin for the first two days of treatment and were then randomised to either continue to receive IV vancomycin or to be switched to oral iclaprim for eight additional days. A total of 60 patients have been randomised for this study.

The key objective of the study is to assess the clinical efficacy of an oral capsule formulation of iclaprim as step-down therapy in comparison with IV vancomycin in the treatment of cSSSI. The primary endpoint is the clinical cure rate at the Test-of-Cure (TOC) visit. Secondary objectives include bacteriological outcome as well as safety and tolerability.

Dr Paul Hadvary, Head of Development of Arpida Ltd., commented: “The speed of enrolment in this Phase II trial surpassed our expectations. It again shows that an ‘intravenous-to-oral’ step-down therapy serves a medical need and could add significant value to intravenous iclaprim. Marketing applications for intravenous iclaprim have been filed in the U.S.A., the European Union and Canada. We will release the top-line data of this Phase II switch study in the coming months and subsequently determine the path ahead.”

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About Arpida Ltd.

Arpida (SWX: ARPN) is a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Reinach, Switzerland with operations in Switzerland and the USA. It focuses on the discovery, development and commercialisation of novel drugs that seek to overcome the growing problem of microbial resistance. The most advanced compounds include an antibacterial under regulatory review and an antifungal in Phase III.

Arpida’s leading product candidate is intravenous iclaprim, a potent antibacterial that targets severe infections requiring hospital treatment, including those caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The clinical programme for the first indication, complicated skin and skin structure infections (cSSSI), has been completed. The submission of the NDA to the US FDA was completed in March 2008. The FDA has defined that the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) goal date will be 16 January 2009. Arpida submitted a Marketing Authorisation Application for intravenous iclaprim with EMEA in July 2008. EMEA notified that it had accepted the MAA for review in August 2008.

In December 2007, Arpida announced the enrolment of the first patients in a Phase II clinical study with intravenous iclaprim in the treatment of patients with hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP), ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) or healthcare associated pneumonia (HCAP).

In May 2008, Arpida announced the enrolment of the first patients in a Phase II 'intravenous-to-oral' switch trial. Iclaprim could be offered not only as an intravenous therapy for hospital use in acute situations, but also as an oral formulation, allowing early patient discharge followed by outpatient treatment. This switch could be a valuable instrument in reducing healthcare costs and enhancing patient comfort.

Arpida's fourth most advanced antibiotic programme, AR-709, targets upper and lower respiratory tract infections acquired in the community setting. AR-709 exhibited potent activity against a large panel of pneumococcal clinical isolates including those resistant to currently used drugs. Promising results of "first-in-man" studies with AR-709 were published in March 2007.

An additional compound, AR-2474, has achieved *in vivo* proof of concept. AR-2474 has been shown to be effective in eradicating pathogens in preclinical models of skin infection and nasal carriage.

Apart from the antibiotic programmes, Arpida has an innovative antifungal therapy (TLT) which is in Phase III clinical trials in Europe, targeting onychomycosis.

Moreover, the company has several other leads in optimisation and additional discovery programmes derived from its own discovery platform at various research stages.

This press release contains specific forward-looking statements, e.g. statements including terms like believe, assume, expect or similar expressions. Such forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may result in a substantial divergence between the actual results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and those explicitly or implicitly presumed in these statements. Against the background of these uncertainties readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The company assumes no responsibility to update forward-looking statements or to adapt them to future events or developments.