

First cohort enrolled in trial with innovative gene therapy for arthritis.

Amsterdam July 8, 2018 - **Arthrogen, a clinical stage gene therapy company together with the Centre for Human Drug Research (CHDR), a Leiden based independent clinical research organization, announced that the first three arthritis patients have been enrolled in a phase Ib gene therapy trial for treatment of arthritis with ART-I02.**

ART-I02 is an adeno-associated virus (AAV5) vector encoding the human IFN- β gene under control of an inflammation-responsive promoter. ART-I02 is designed to produce the anti-inflammatory protein IFN- β in the synovial cells in the joint. The aim is to achieve a sustained clinical remission with a single treatment. This current clinical phase Ib trial, evaluates the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics, immunogenicity and anti-inflammatory activity of ART-I02 treatment in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or osteoarthritis (OA). In total 12 patients with RA or OA in their hand joints will be included. Parallel to this study, a similar phase Ib trial has started in Canada treating 15 patients with RA in their wrist.

“Patients with rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis face chronic pain and immobility, even despite the availability of new, mostly systemic treatments.”, explains principal investigator Prof. dr. Koos Burggraaf of CHDR and he continues: “In this trial we evaluate the safety of ART-I02 and we assess effect measures, hoping that this first step may prove to be an important milestone marking a new era in the treatment of arthritis, a chronic debilitating disease.”.

Robert Jan Lamers, Chief Executive Officer of Arthrogen comments ‘We would like to thank our investors, collaborators and participating patients in helping us achieve this pivotal milestone. Based on anticipated enrollment and follow-up timelines, the first set of data is expected to be available in the fourth quarter of 2018’.

About CHDR

CHDR is an independent clinical research organization specialized in innovative early-stage clinical drug research (www.chdr.nl).

About Arthrogen BV

Arthrogen is a privately held gene therapy company dedicated to transforming the lives of people with inflammatory arthritis, through world-class research, development, and commercialization of innovative therapies. In 2005 Arthrogen was founded by the Amsterdam Medical Center (AMC) and a Dubai based investor. Arthrogen is located in the Netherlands at the premises of the Amsterdam UMC, location AMC. Arthrogen continues expanding its portfolio of clinical candidates and seeks new collaborations with pharma and investment partners to continue and expand its drug discovery and development programs.

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