VistaGen Therapeutics Receives Notice of Allowance for a Key U.S. Patent Covering Treatment of Depression with AV-101

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- (Marketwired) -- 03/07/18 -- VistaGen Therapeutics Inc. (NASDAQ: VTGN), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing new generation medicines for depression and other central nervous system (CNS) disorders, today announced receiving a Notice of Allowance from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for U.S. patent application no. 15/018,219 related to methods of treating depression with AV-101, its oral new generation glutamatergic product candidate in Phase 2 development for treatment Major Depressive Disorder (MDD). When issued, the U.S. patent will not expire until at least 2034.

"This Notice of Allowance from the USPTO is a major development, representing one of the most significant patent applications ever allowed to our company," stated Shawn Singh, Chief Executive Officer of VistaGen. "This patent will be one of the core components of our commercial protection strategy for AV-101 in the U.S., the world's largest pharmaceutical market. It will both enhance and expand substantially our U.S. market exclusivity for AV-101. We are continuing to pursue additional patents for AV-101, in the U.S. and other major pharmaceutical markets, to further fortify our global patent portfolio for this promising CNS drug candidate."

About VistaGen

VistaGen Therapeutics, Inc. (NASDAQ: VTGN), is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing new generation medicines for depression and other CNS disorders. VistaGen's lead CNS product candidate, AV-101, is an oral NMDA receptor glycine B antagonist in Phase 2 development, initially as a new adjunctive treatment for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) patients with an inadequate response to current FDA-approved antidepressants. AV-101's mechanism of action is fundamentally different from all current antidepressants and atypical antipsychotics often used adjunctively to augment them. Most current antidepressants target the neurotransmitters serotonin (SSRIs) and/or norepinephrine (SNRIs) and, if effective, take many weeks to achieve therapeutic benefits. VistaGen's AV-101 targets glutamate, the most prevalent neurotransmitter in the brain, and, similar to ketamine, also a NMDA receptor antagonist, has potential to drive a paradigm shift towards a new generation of faster-acting glutamatergic antidepressants. AV-101 may also have the potential to treat neuropathic pain, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease levodopa-induced dyskinesia (PD LID), suicidal ideation and other CNS diseases and disorders where modulation of the NMDA receptors, activation of AMPA pathways and/or key active metabolites of AV-101 may achieve therapeutic benefits.

For more information, please visit www.vistagen.com and connect with VistaGen on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

Forward-Looking Statements

The statements in this press release that are not historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements that are based on current expectations and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual future results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. Those risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, risks related to the successful launch, continuation and results of the NIMH's Phase 2 (monotherapy) and/or the Company's planned Phase 2 (adjunctive therapy) clinical studies of AV-101 in MDD, and other CNS diseases and disorders, including neuropathic pain and levadopa-induced dyskinesia associated with Parkinson's disease therapy, protection of its intellectual property, and the availability of substantial additional capital to support its operations, including the AV-101 clinical development activities described above. These and other risks and uncertainties are identified and described in more detail in VistaGen's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These filings are available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. VistaGen undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements.

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