



## Ionis' Inotersen NDA Accepted for Priority Review by the FDA

January 8, 2018

**PDUFA date of July 6, 2018**

CARLSBAD, Calif., Jan. 8, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: IONS) announced today that its New Drug Application (NDA) for inotersen has been accepted for Priority Review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Inotersen is an investigational drug for the treatment of patients with hereditary TTR amyloidosis (hATTR). Priority Review is granted by the FDA to drugs with the potential to address a serious condition and, if approved, would provide a significant improvement in safety or effectiveness of the treatment, prevention, or diagnosis of a serious condition. The FDA has set a Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) date of July 6, 2018.



"TTR amyloidosis is a progressive, fatal disease with very limited treatment options. Receiving Priority Review in the U.S. and Accelerated Assessment in the EU for inotersen shows that the regulatory agencies recognize the high unmet need and the urgency to identify effective therapies to treat patients with this devastating disease," said Sarah Boyce, chief business officer of Ionis Pharmaceuticals. "We continue our launch preparations for inotersen and are on track to launch inotersen promptly in the U.S. and EU if approved."

"We have been working closely with both the FDA and the EMA following the completion of our Phase 3 study to expedite the regulatory review timelines for inotersen," said Brett Monia, Ph.D., senior vice president of drug discovery and franchise leader for oncology and rare diseases at Ionis Pharmaceuticals. "Today's outcome reflects our strong relationship with regulators and the quality and completeness of our regulatory submissions. It also reflects the potential for inotersen to serve a major unmet medical need based on the results of our Phase 3 study, which demonstrated early and sustained benefit to patients treated with inotersen in multiple aspects of their disease, including quality of life."

### **ABOUT INOTERSEN**

Inotersen is an antisense drug designed to reduce the production of transthyretin, or TTR, to treat patients with TTR amyloidosis (ATTR), a severe, rare and fatal disease. In patients with ATTR, both the mutant and wild-type (wt) TTR builds up as fibrils in tissues, such as the peripheral nerves, heart, gastrointestinal system, eyes, kidneys, central nervous system, thyroid and bone marrow. The presence of TTR fibrils interferes with the normal functions of these tissues. As the TTR protein fibrils enlarge, more tissue damage occurs and the disease worsens, resulting in poor quality of life and eventually death.

The FDA previously granted inotersen Orphan Drug Designation and Fast Track Status. A Marketing Authorization Application (MAA) has been submitted to the European Medicines Agency, which has granted Accelerated Assessment and Orphan Drug Designation to inotersen for the treatment of patients with ATTR.

### **ABOUT INOTERSEN PHASE 3 CLINICAL STUDY**

Inotersen completed a Phase 3 study, NEURO-TTR, in patients with polyneuropathy due to hereditary TTR amyloidosis (hATTR) in May 2017. Results from the study demonstrated benefit compared to placebo across both primary endpoints of the study: the Norfolk Quality of Life Questionnaire-Diabetic Neuropathy (Norfolk QoL-DN) and the modified Neuropathy Impairment Score +7 (mNIS+7) at both eight and 15 months of treatment. In addition, consistent and significant benefit was observed in both the Norfolk-QoL-DN and mNIS+7, independent of disease stage, types of mutation, previous treatment with TTR protein stabilizers or presence of cardiomyopathy at the beginning of the study. Inotersen-treated patients benefited significantly in the quality of life primary endpoint with 50% of patients experiencing improved scores compared to baseline and a mean difference in magnitude of 11.68 points, compared to placebo-treated patients, at 15 months of treatment (mean change from baseline of 0.99 vs. 12.67,  $p < 0.001$ ). In addition, clinically meaningful benefit compared to placebo was observed in the SF-36 physical component score, a measure of general health quality of life. Inotersen-treated patients also benefited significantly in the co-primary endpoint of disease control, mNIS+7, with 47% of patients experiencing improved or stable scores compared to baseline and a mean difference in magnitude of 19.73 -points, compared to placebo-treated patients, at 15 months of treatment, ( $p < 0.001$ ).

Two key safety issues were identified during the study: thrombocytopenia and safety signals related to renal function. Enhanced monitoring was implemented during the study to support early detection and management of these issues. Serious platelet and renal events were infrequent and easily managed with routine monitoring, which has proven effective since implementation. Other serious adverse events were observed in 24.1% of inotersen-treated patients and 21.7% of placebo-treated patients. No cumulative toxicities have been identified with long-term exposure.

Adverse events occurring in  $\geq 10\%$  of patients and twice as frequently in inotersen-treated patients compared with placebo-treated patients included thrombocytopenia/platelet count decreases, nausea, pyrexia, chills, vomiting, and anemia. Injection site reactions accounted for less than 1% of all injections and were mild or moderate in severity. There were no discontinuations due to injection site reactions. The overall mortality rate in the NEURO-TTR study was 2.9% and was lower than overall mortality rates reported in other studies in hATTR patients. There were a total of five deaths in the study, five (4.7%) in the inotersen arm and zero in the placebo arm. Four deaths in the inotersen arm were associated with disease progression and considered unrelated to treatment. As previously reported, there was one fatal intracranial hemorrhage in conjunction with serious thrombocytopenia. No serious thrombocytopenia was observed following implementation of more frequent monitoring.

## **ABOUT IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**

Ionis is the leading company in RNA-targeted drug discovery and development focused on developing drugs for patients who have the highest unmet medical needs, such as those patients with severe and rare diseases. Using its proprietary antisense technology, Ionis has created a large pipeline of first-in-class or best-in-class drugs, with over three dozen drugs in development. SPINRAZA<sup>®</sup> (nusinersen) has been approved in global markets for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Biogen is responsible for commercializing SPINRAZA. Drugs that have successfully completed Phase 3 studies include inotersen, an antisense drug Ionis is developing to treat patients with hereditary TTR amyloidosis (hATTR), and volanesorsen, an antisense drug discovered by Ionis and co-developed by Ionis and Akcea Therapeutics to treat patients with either familial chylomicronemia syndrome or familial partial lipodystrophy. Akcea, an affiliate of Ionis, is a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing drugs to treat patients with serious cardiometabolic diseases caused by lipid disorders. If approved, volanesorsen will be commercialized through Ionis' affiliate, Akcea. Inotersen filings for marketing approval are under review in the U.S. and EU. Volanesorsen filings for marketing approval are under review in the U.S., EU, and Canada. Ionis' patents provide strong and extensive protection for its drugs and technology. Additional information about Ionis is available at [www.ionispharma.com](http://www.ionispharma.com).

## **IONIS' FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENT**

This press release includes forward-looking statements regarding the therapeutic and commercial potential of inotersen and other products in development. Any statement describing Ionis' goals, expectations, financial or other projections, intentions or beliefs is a forward-looking statement and should be considered an at-risk statement. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, particularly those inherent in the process of discovering, developing and commercializing drugs that are safe and effective for use as human therapeutics, and in the endeavor of building a business around such drugs. Ionis' forward-looking statements also involve assumptions that, if they never materialize or prove correct, could cause its results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Although Ionis' forward-looking statements reflect the good faith judgment of its management, these statements are based only on facts and factors currently known by Ionis. As a result, you are cautioned not to rely on these forward-looking statements. These and other risks concerning Ionis' programs are described in additional detail in Ionis' annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, and its most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q, which are on file with the SEC. Copies of these and other documents are available from the Company.

In this press release, unless the context requires otherwise, "Ionis," "Company," "we," "our," and "us" refers to Ionis Pharmaceuticals and its subsidiaries.

Ionis Pharmaceuticals<sup>™</sup> is a trademark of Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Akcea Therapeutics<sup>™</sup> is a trademark of Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. SPINRAZA<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Biogen.

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