Press Release

Lupin receives IND approvals for anti-TB and anti-psoriasis molecules

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Mumbai, December 2, 2004: Lupin Ltd. announced today that it has received approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for conducting Phase I clinical trials for two of its Investigational New Drug candidates, LL 4858 (Sudoterb) and LL 4218 (Desoside-P).

With the addition of these two approvals, Lupin now has 4 IND applications approved by the DCGI.

The anti-TB drug candidate LL 4858 has shown excellent anti-mycobacterial activity against multidrug resistant strains of Tuberculosis. In preclinical studies it was seen to significantly shorten the duration of treatment with low adverse effects as compared to existing anti-TB therapy. With the IND approval, LL 4858 will now enter Phase I clinical trials in India.

LL 4218 is a pure compound, isolated from plant, for the treatment of psoriasis. It is orally bioavailable and proposed for the treatment of chronic stable plaque type psoriasis. Psoriasis is a chronic skin condition, with highly unmet medical needs. There is an impending need for effective and safe oral drugs to be made available in the global pharmaceutical market for this chronic inflammatory skin disorder.

Besides these, Lupin is focusing on NCE research for Inflammatory disorders, respiratory diseases as well as antibacterials. The Company has several successful collaborations with government agencies like CSIR and NMITLI.

"The approval of LL 4858 and LL 4218 marks a significant milestone in Lupin's NCE research program. We are among a handful of Indian companies to have four drug candidates in clinical trials" Dr. D B Gupta, Chairman, Lupin Ltd. said.