HUTCHISON CHINA MEDITECH LTD

Hutchison China MediTech Limited ("Chi-Med")
(AIM: HCM)

Chi-Med completes patient enrolment on its HMPL-004 ulcerative colitis proof-of-concept Phase II clinical trial in China

On-track for publication of final results this August

London, Wednesday, 23 May 2007: Chi-Med today announces its wholly-owned drug R&D subsidiary, Hutchison MediPharma Limited ("Hutchison MediPharma"), has completed patient enrolment on the proof-of-concept ("POC") Phase II clinical trial of its HMPL-004 drug candidate in active mild-to-moderate ulcerative colitis ("UC") patients in China.

Background on the POC Phase II clinical trial

The POC Phase II clinical trial is a multi-center, randomized, double-blind, active controlled study of 120 patients. In the trial, one dose of HMPL-004 (1,200mg daily) and active control Mesalazine SR were tested. The primary aim of the clinical trial is to compare HMPL-004 with the safety and efficacy of current standard therapy of Mesalazine SR in treating active mild-to-moderate UC patients. Assessments include both a patient's UC clinical symptom score and the change in the patient's endoscope grade from the start-point to the end-point of the eight-week treatment. The change in the symptom score is the primary measure of efficacy for the clinical study. The endoscope grade change is the secondary efficacy measurement. Safety evaluations are made throughout the clinical trial period.

Dr. Samantha Du, Chief Scientific Officer of Chi-Med and Managing Director of Hutchison MediPharma, said:

"We are excited that our HMPL-004 China trial has finished patient recruitment. The performance of HMPL-004 in this China POC Phase II clinical trial will give us a clear picture of HMPL-004's future clinical development plan, and encourage the US Crohn's disease ("CD") trial enrolment."

Background on HMPL-004

HPML-004 is a traditional botanical extract used in Chinese medicine to treat inflammatory and infectious diseases. Inflammatory bowel disease ("IBD") including CD and UC are both considered auto-immune diseases. The patient population with CD and UC in the US is estimated at between 650,000 and 1,100,000 people with CAGR in the 4% range; the US market alone for CD and UC therapies is expected to reach US$1.5 billion in 2012. Currently prescribed therapeutics for IBD include steroids, anti-inflammatory drugs, antibiotics, immunosuppressive agents and cytokine inhibiting biologicals. These therapies exhibit varying degrees of clinical benefit. However, they are often associated with unwanted side effects.

Scientists at Hutchison MediPharma discovered and patented the novel biological activities of HMPL-004 in suppressing inflammatory cytokine expression in-vitro and in-vivo, suggesting that HMPL-004 could provide safer and more effective therapy for IBD patients. HMPL-004 inhibits TNF-α and IL-1β production in cell-based assays. In addition, HMPL-004 was shown to inhibit NF-κB activation. NF-κB is a family of transcriptional factors that regulate a wide spectrum of genes critically involved in host defense and inflammation. A large number of studies have demonstrated

that agents blocking inflammatory cytokines, including TNF-α and IL-1β, and those inhibiting NF-κB activation can significantly suppress inflammatory response.

A further POC Phase II clinical trial on HMPL-004 is currently being conducted in the US to treat CD. Patient enrolment is ongoing and the clinical trial is expected to complete in 2008.

Mr. Christian Hogg, CEO of Chi-Med, said:

"The HMPL-004 POC Phase II clinical trial is the first that Chi-Med will report as a listed company and it should be noted that this trial is on time and has been delivered at lower than expected cost. We are engaged in out licensing discussions on HMPL-004 and are hopeful that our UC and CD trials will combine to provide us maximum value."

Ends

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Notes to Editors

Chi-Med is the holding company of a pharmaceutical and healthcare group based primarily in China and was admitted to trading on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange in May 2006. Chi-Med is focused on researching, developing, manufacturing, and selling pharmaceuticals, health supplements and other consumer health and personal care products derived from Traditional Chinese Medicine and botanical ingredients.

Hutchison MediPharma is Chi-Med's wholly-owned drug research and development company and has a team of around 120 scientists and staff focusing on botanical drugs, semi-synthetic natural product drugs, and synthetic single chemical entity drugs. It currently has two candidates in clinical development in both the US and China. HMPL-002, a radiosensitiser for head and neck and non-small cell lung cancer, is in Phase I/II in the US and in proof-of-concept in China. HMPL-004, an inhibitor to a group of inflammatory cytokines, for treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases, including Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, is in Phase II in the US and in proof-of-concept in China. Hutchison MediPharma also has a pipeline of single molecular entity discovery projects in the auto-immune/inflammatory diseases and oncology therapeutic areas which have shown activity against clinically validated targets.

Chi-Med is majority owned by Hutchison Whampoa Limited, an international corporation listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.