

News Release

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Carna Biosciences, Inc.

Carna announces clearance of CTA to initiate clinical trial of AS-1763

Carna Biosciences, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focusing on the discovery and development of innovative therapies to treat serious unmet medical needs, announces today that the Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (CCMO) and the Ethics Committee have approved a Clinical Trial Application (CTA) for AS-1763, an investigational small molecule drug designed to non-covalently inhibit Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) in a highly selective manner. AS-1763 is currently under development by Carna targeting chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and other B cell malignancies. Carna expects to initiate a phase 1 study in healthy volunteers in the first half of 2021.

“AS-1763 is a next generation BTK inhibitor that could provide better therapeutic options to patients who have developed resistance to the first generation BTK inhibitors. With the CTA approval, we intend to accelerate the development of AS-1763 to contribute to the patients who suffer from Cancer,” said Kohichiro Yoshino, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer at Carna Biosciences.

About AS-1763

AS-1763 is a highly selective, orally bioavailable, non-covalent inhibitor of both the wild type and C481S mutant Bruton's tyrosine kinases (BTK) for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and other B cell malignancies. First generation covalent BTK inhibitors including ibrutinib are key therapeutic options for patients with B cell malignancies. However, patients are reported to develop resistance during the treatment due to substitution of cysteine residue at 481 position with serine (C481S mutation) in BTK, which prevents the covalent binding of the first generation irreversible BTK inhibitors. In in vitro experiments, AS-1763 significantly abrogates cell proliferation in both wild type and C481S mutant BTK lymphoma cells, strongly suggesting AS-1763 will be a new therapeutic option for treating patients with B cell malignancies both having wild type and C481S mutation in BTK.

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