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Public Relations

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Development Status Update of ONO-4128/873140

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. ("Ono") announced today that Phase-III clinical trials of ONO-4128/873140 were initiated. Novel HIV/AIDS drug candidate ONO-4128/873140 discovered by Ono has been licensed to and developed by GlaxoSmithKline ("GSK") on a worldwide basis.

While Phase IIb clinical studies were initiated for treatment-naïve HIV infected patients at the end of last year, GSK has just started Phase III clinical studies for treatment-experienced HIV patients.

The human CCR5 receptor is believed to be the predominant co-receptor used by HIV. ONO-4128/873140 appears to block the entry of HIV into human cells through a new mechanism of action that is totally different from those of currently available antiretroviral drugs.

"The availability of an orally administered entry inhibitor may provide an important treatment option for people infected with HIV-1," commented Dr Joseph Eron, Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Principal Director of the UNC AIDS Clinical Trials Unit.