

**Shionogi Receives Marketing and Manufacturing Approval
for Irbetan[®] 50mg and 100mg Tablets**

April 17, 2008 -- Shionogi & Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Osaka; President: Isao Teshirogi) today announced that it has received marketing and manufacturing approval for 50mg and 100mg formulations of Irbetan[®] (generic name: irbesartan), a hypertension treatment. Shionogi plans to launch the product pending its National Health Insurance (NHI) price listing.

Discovered by French pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Aventis and co-developed by sanofi-aventis and Bristol Myers Squibb, an American pharmaceutical company outside Japan, Irbesartan is a long-acting angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB). In addition to stable hypotensive effect lasting 24 hours, irbesartan has been well recognized outside Japan since its launch in 1997 as the only one ARB with evidence of its renoprotective action in hypertensive type 2 diabetic patients covering both early-stage and overt nephropathy at 300mg/day based on the large-scale clinical trials, IDNT and IRMA-2, which are often cited in the major international guidelines.

The drug is on the market in 86 countries. Worldwide sales in 2007 totaled about 300.0 billion Japanese yen, making it a leading ARB brand.

In conjunction with the approval of Irbetan[®], which offers outstanding renoprotective action, Shionogi has asked Atsuya Furuta, former manager of the Yakult Swallows pro baseball team, to be the spokesperson in a new

initiative to enhance information provided to healthcare professionals. This initiative is aimed at raising awareness of the importance of renal protection and of the diagnosis and treatment of chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Shionogi has long been conducting educational activities for the diagnosis and treatment of CKD, with a focus on the antihypertensive Landel[®], a calcium antagonist with renoprotective action. While conducting these activities, Shionogi has enlisted Mr. Furuta, who also has experience as a catcher, a key defensive position, and as president of the Japan Professional Baseball Players Association, to heighten healthcare professionals' awareness of the importance of "defending" the kidneys and safely treating hypertension.

With its hyperlipidemia treatment Crestor[®], Shionogi has focused on contributing to the treatment of many hyperlipidemia patients. In addition, Shionogi will do its utmost to make a larger contribution to treatment in the circulatory and fat metabolism fields by getting as many Japanese hypertension patients as possible to use Irbetan[®].

For Reference:

About Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARBs)

ARBs reduce blood pressure by preventing angiotensin II, a physiologically active substance that constricts blood vessels and increases blood pressure, from binding to sites of action (receptors).

About IRMA 2

IRMA 2 (Irbesartan in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes and Microalbuminuria study) was conducted on 590 hypertensive patients with Type 2 diabetes and microalbuminuria. The study verified that Irbesartan inhibited progression from early nephropathy to overt nephropathy at 300mg/day. Compared with the placebo group, irbesartan significantly reduced the amount of albumin in the urine, and restrained progression to overt proteinuria.

About IDNT

The IDNT (Irbesartan Diabetic Nephropathy Trial) compared Irbesartan at 300mg/day with amlodipine (a calcium antagonist) and a placebo in 1,715 hypertensive patients with Type 2 diabetes and nephropathy to evaluate inhibition of kidney events. Irbesartan was the first ARB to demonstrate better control of events in the overt nephropathy stage compared with a calcium antagonist.

Irbetan[®] Product Overview

Product Name: Irbetan[®] 50mg tablets, Irbetan[®] 100mg tablets

Generic Name: Irbesartan

Effect: Antihypertensive

Form and Content: White to yellowish-white, round, scored, film-coated tablets containing 50mg or 100mg of irbesartan in one tablet

Dosage and

Administration: Generally in adults, one 50mg or 100mg tablet is taken orally each day. The dosage may be increased or reduced as appropriate depending on age and symptoms, but should not exceed 200mg per day.

Approval Date: April 16, 2008

For further information:

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