July 12, 2004
AnGes MG, Inc.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given the go-ahead for a clinical trial investigating AnGes' HGF plasmid for the treatment of ischemic heart disease (IHD). This U.S. study will be the first clinical investigation of HGF plasmid for IHD.

As announced on February 26, 2004, AnGes Inc. (a U.S. subsidiary of AnGes MG) submitted an Investigational New Drug (IND) application for a Phase I study of HGF plasmid in IHD. Today, AnGes MG announces receiving notification by the FDA on July 9, 2004 that the study is cleared to proceed. AnGes, Inc. (study sponsor) anticipates beginning the trial in the near future.

HGF plasmid contains the gene for human hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), which has the ability to generate the growth of new blood vessels. This neovascular effect is intended to alleviate ischemic disease, in which the lumen of the blood vessel is narrowed, due to arteriosclerosis, and blood flow in the heart is impaired. As this gene medicine operates in a different manner than conventional drugs, it is expected to be effective for people who do not respond to conventional drug therapy or who cannot undergo surgery.

The primary objective of Phase I trials is to evaluate the safety of the investigational medicine. Healthy volunteers are often used as subjects in these trials, however, for gene medicines for which it is deemed inappropriate from a safety standpoint to administer them to normal, healthy individuals, Phase I trials are conducted using subjects with the target disease. In the IHD Phase I trial HGF plasmid will be administered directly to ischemic cardiac muscle using an endomyocardial catheter. The safety and preliminary efficacy of this treatment will be evaluated in approximately ten subjects. AnGes MG is also making preparations for a phase I IHD trial in Japan.

AnGes MG is also developing HGF plasmid for indications related to PAD, in which blood circulation in the lower limbs is decreased (critical leg ischemia, obstructive arteriosclerosis and Buerger's disease). AnGes MG is currently conducting two PAD-related multi-center, double blind Phase III clinical trials in Japan. AnGes Inc. is currently conducting a U.S. Phase ll clinical trial using HGF plasmid for the treatment of peripheral arterial disease (PAD). AnGes MG intends to market HGF plasmid as a gene medicine for both PAD and

IHD in Japan, the U.S., and Europe. AnGes MG has granted Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. the distribution rights for HGF plasmid in both the PAD and IHD indications in Japan, the USA, and Europe.

Peripheral arterial disease Japan Phase III Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
USA Phase II
Ischemic heart disease USA Phase I
Parkinson's disease Pre-clinical level Undecided

Current Pipeline for HGF Plasmid Therapeutic Agents

Field	*Region*	*Development Phase*	*Licensee*
Peripheral arterial disease	Japan	Phase III	Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
	USA	Phase II	
Ischemic heart disease	USA	Phase I	
Parkinson's disease		Pre-clinical level	Undecided