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Celsion Announces Upcoming Presentation at AACR 2016 Highlighting Potential of GEN-1 IL-12 Immunotherapy in Ovarian Cancer

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J., April 12, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Celsion Corporation (NASDAQ: CLSN), an oncology drug development company, today announced that data highlighting the potential of GEN-1 in ovarian cancer will be presented at the upcoming American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting, which is being held in New Orleans from April 16-20, 2016. GEN-1 is an IL-12 DNA plasmid vector formulated into a nanoparticle with a non-viral delivery system to cause the sustained local production and secretion of the Interleukin-12 (IL-12) protein loco-regionally to the tumor site.

The poster presentation relates to data demonstrating the significant synergistic anti-cancer effects of GEN-1 in combination with Avastin® and Doxil®, as well as promising safety and efficacy clinical data for GEN-1 in combination with Doxil® in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer patients.

Details of the presentation are as follows:

Abstract Title: Interleukin-12 Gene Therapy in Combination with Bevacizumab and PEGylated Liposomal Doxorubin for Treatment of Disseminated Ovarian Cancer

Session Title: Drug Delivery

Date and Time: April 18, 2016 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm

"GEN-1 has consistently shown improved outcomes in both pre-clinical and clinical studies when combined with standard of care therapeutics," said Michael H. Tardugno, Celsion's chaiman, president and CEO. "The remarkable findings from this study further reinforce our development strategy for GEN-1 and accelerate our plans for clinical trials in ovarian cancer patients who have had limited success with first line treatments."

The Company is currently enrolling patients in the OVATION Study, a Phase 1b dose escalating trial combining GEN-1 with neo-adjuvant therapies in newly diagnosed ovarian cancer patients which will provide a starting dose for a follow-on Phase 1/2 study combining GEN-1 with Avastin® and Doxil®. The Phase 1/2 combination trial is expected to begin in the second half of 2016.

About GEN-1 Immunotherapy

GEN-1, designed using Celsion's proprietary TheraPlas™ platform technology, is an IL-12 DNA plasmid vector encased in a nanoparticle delivery system, which enables cell transfection followed by persistent, local secretion of the IL-12 protein. IL-12 is one of the most active cytokines for the induction of potent anti-cancer immunity acting through the induction of T-lymphocyte and natural killer (NK) cell proliferation. The Company has previously reported positive safety and encouraging Phase I results with GEN-1 given as monotherapy in patients with peritoneally metastasized ovarian cancer, and recently completed a Phase Ib trial of GEN-1 in combination with PEGylated doxorubicin in patients with platinum-resistant ovarian cancer. GEN-1 has also demonstrated preclinical activity in glioblastoma multiforme (brain cancer) and the Company plans to initiate a Phase I study in this indication in the second half of 2015.

About Celsion Corporation

Celsion is a fully-integrated oncology company focused on developing a portfolio of innovative cancer treatments, including directed chemotherapies, immunotherapies and RNA- or DNA-based therapies. The Company's lead program is ThermoDox®, a proprietary heat-activated liposomal encapsulation of doxorubicin, currently in Phase III development for the treatment of primary liver cancer and in Phase II development for the treatment of recurrent chest wall breast cancer. The pipeline also includes GEN-1, a DNA-based immunotherapy for the localized treatment of ovarian and brain cancers. Celsion has two platform technologies for the development of novel nucleic acid-based immunotherapies and other anti-cancer DNA or RNA therapies, including TheraPlas™ and TheraSilence™. For more information on Celsion, visit our website: http://www.celsion.com. (CLSN-G1) (CLSN-OV)

Celsion wishes to inform readers that forward-looking statements in this release are made pursuant to the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Readers are cautioned that such forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties including, without limitation, unforeseen changes in the course of research and development activities and in clinical trials; the uncertainties of and difficulties in analyzing interim clinical data, particularly in small subgroups that are not statistically significant; FDA and regulatory uncertainties and risks; the significant expense, time, and risk of failure of conducting clinical trials; the need for Celsion to evaluate its future development plans; possible acquisitions or licenses of other technologies, assets or businesses; possible actions by customers, suppliers, competitors, regulatory authorities; and other risks detailed from time to time in the Celsion's periodic reports and prospectuses filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Celsion assumes no obligation to update or supplement forward-looking statements that become untrue because of subsequent events, new information or otherwise.

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