For Immediate Release

Panacea Biotec Pioneers Development Of Dengue Vaccine In India

Panacea Biotec, the second largest vaccine producer of India organized a symposium on “Challenges in Prevention and Management of Dengue” on 17th October, 2006 at Delhi. The symposium was well attended by Doctors of Delhi and media personnel. The keynote address was given by Mr. P.K. Hota, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. Amongst expert speakers were Prof. N.K. Ganguly, Director General, ICMR; Dr. K.K. Tripathi, Advisor, Deptt. of Biotechnology; Dr. (Ms.) Dipali Mukherjee, Sr. Dy. Director General, ICMR; Dr. (Ms.) Shobha Broor, Deptt. Of Microbiology, AIIMS.

During the symposium, Panacea Biotec announced its initiative to develop and make a Dengue vaccine for the global prevention of Dengue infection/DHF, the second most widespread tropical disease after malaria.

Dengue is a deadly disease carried by the Aedes mosquito that can cause fever, chills and skeletal pain. Some 2500 million people (2/5 of the world’s population) are now at risk from dengue. As per World Health Organization (WHO) estimate, there may be 50 million cases of Dengue infection worldwide every year.

“Panacea Biotec has made an encouraging advance in the research and development of a preventive vaccine against Dengue virus. Overall, the disease is a potential threat for close to half the world’s population. The vaccine has been licensed to us by NIH, USA and is in the process of development. It would take another two to three years or so for the vaccine to get into the market, depending upon clearance from regulatory authorities. The vaccine will be effective against all the four strains of Dengue virus and would cater to adult and children.” said Mr. Rajesh Jain, Joint Managing Director, Panacea Biotec.

The purpose of the symposium being held today is to provide a global snap shot of Dengue to the medical fraternity and facilitate deep insights about prevention and management of Dengue. Panacea Biotec has already established its leadership in the field of biotechnology by providing vaccines to prevent dreadful diseases like Polio, Hepatitis-B and is actively working on Anthrax and Measles vaccines.
About Dengue

Dengue Fever is transmitted by Aedes albopictus, a mosquito commonly found in Hong Kong. To prevent dengue fever, it’s vital that potential mosquito breeding grounds, like stagnant water and blocked drains are removed or cleared. Dengue is suspected when there sudden onset of high grade (103-105 degree F, 39-40 degree C). The fever is accompanied with severe headache (mostly in the forehead), typically pain behind the eyes, body aches and joint pains, rash on the skin and nausea or vomiting. The fever usually lasts for 5-7 days. All the above symptoms and signs may not be present in the patient.

Like most viral disease there is no specific treatment for Dengue. Paracetamol is the drug of choice to bring down fever and relieve joint pain. Other medicines such as Asprin and Ibuprofen should be avoided because of increased risk of bleeding.

About Panacea Biotec Ltd.

Panacea Biotec is one of India’s leading research-based health management companies with established research, manufacturing and marketing capabilities. Panacea Biotec is the 2nd largest vaccine manufacturer in India. Panacea Biotec has been ranked as the 3rd largest biotechnology company (ABLE Survey 2006) in India and is also amongst the top 50 pharmaceutical companies in India.

Panacea Biotec has registered turnover of Rs. 5480 million during FY2006. The product portfolio of the company includes highly innovative prescription products in important therapeutic areas such as pain management, diabetes management, cardiovascular management, renal-disease management, osteoporosis management, anti-tubercular, gastro-intestinal care products and vaccines. The company has collaborations and tie-ups with leading national and international research organizations and corporations. The company's state of the art manufacturing facilities for vaccines and pharmaceutical formulations comply with the US-FDA, UK-MHRA, SA-MCC and WHO-cGMP standards. The company has four research and development centers. The company also has 10 international product patents. The company has over 2300 employees including over 200 scientists.

For accelerating innovation and growth, Panacea Biotec has undertaken effective alliances and collaborations. Panacea Biotec has a joint venture with Chiron Corporation, US (now known as Novartis Vaccines) to market new and innovative breakthrough combination vaccines in India. Its collaboration with Cambridge Biostability Ltd., UK for developing thermo stable vaccines; in-licensing arrangements with Biotechnology Consortium of India Ltd. (BCIL); National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA; National Research Development Corporation of India; NVI Netherlands for inactivated polio vaccine; PT. Bio Farma, Indonesia for measles vaccine are some of its vital strategic alliances done by Panacea Biotec Ltd.

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