

Merrion Pharmaceuticals is issued a key United States patent for their lead product Orazol™

DUBLIN, IRELAND, 7th May 2010 - Merrion Pharmaceuticals plc (IEX:MERR), a pharmaceutical development company, today announces that it has been granted a further US Patent, increasing the protection for their lead product, Orazol™.

United States patent No. 7,704,977, "Solid Oral Dosage Form Containing an Enhancer" is the second patent issued for Merrion's GIPET technology this year.

This patent covers Orazol™ tablets, an oral form of zoledronic acid which is in development as a treatment for bone metastases associated with prostate, breast and other cancers. It is a patent specific to Merrion's Orazol product and has an expiry date of 2027.

The issuance of this patent is a key development for Merrion's patent strategy. In March 2010, a patent covering GIPET® technology combined with bisphosphonates, of which zoledronic acid is a member, was issued in the US. Therefore there is now both a broad technology and a product specific patent issued in the US covering Orazol. In addition to this, a patent covering the GIPET technology, which includes its use with bisphosphonates, has been granted in Europe.

Orazol uses Merrion's proprietary GIPET technology which allows the oral dosing of drugs previously only available in intravenous form. Efficacy, safety and side effect profiles of drugs can be improved substantially using this delivery technology. Thus products developed with this technology have potential for very significant Quality of Life improvements for patients as well as greater access to the medication, and substantial economic improvements for hard pressed healthcare systems.

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