PRODUCT UPDATE

Company	Product	Development
Amylin Pharmaceuticals	AC137	A phase I trial of AC137, a modified form of the human hormone amylin, to treat hypoglycemia associated with Type I diabetes showed that the product is safe in single doses and provides a dose-limiting intolerance level.
Bio-Technology General	Human Growth Hormone	The firm's Japanese licensee for human growth hormone, JCR Pharmaceuticals, has launched the product in Japan. Under an agreement with JCR, Nikken Chemicals has also launched the product in Japan.
Cambridge NeuroScience	Ectapram	The firm has discontinued development of Ectapram as an adjunct to electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), after the drug failed to demonstrate clinical superiority to ECT alone.
Corvas	Corsevin M	Phase I results of Corsevin M, a Factor VIIa inhibitor, showed that it produced rapid, potent, and reversible anticoagulation at three different dose levels.
Cytogen	OncoScint Colorectal	Cytogen has reported on repeat infusions of OncoScint Colorectal, an approved monoclonal-antibody-based colorectal-cancer imaging agent. The presence of human antimouse antibody, detected in 34 percent of patients, was associated with faster product clearance, though the effect of such clearance on imaging efficacy isn't clear.
Cytogen	CYT-424	CYT-424, a radiotherapeutic agent in phase III trials in the U.S. and Europe, effectively alleviates pain associated with bone metastases in 70 to 80 percent of patients.
DynaGen	NicErase-IA	DynaGen has initiated an 80-patient phase-III trial of NicErase-IA, an injectable lobeline-based therapy for immediate reduction of nicotine withdrawal symptoms.
Genentech	Gp120 Vaccine	In a trial of the gp120 HIV vaccine, 28 volunteers received one of two doses or a placebo. The high dose was more effective in stimulating production of HIV-neutralizing antibodies, with nine of 10 high-dose volunteers making antibodies.
Gensia	GenESA System	Gensia has completed patient enrollment in a 700-patient phase-III trial to measure the efficacy of the GenESA system as a diagnostic tool for coronary-artery disease. The GenESA system combines the drug arbutamine and a computer-controlled drug-delivery system to pharmacologically stress the heart.
Immuno	Rgp160 Vaccine	Immuno's rgp160 HIV vaccine induced cellular immunity and a salivary antibody response in HIV-negative volunteers.
Magainin Pharmaceuticals	MSI-78	Magainin's MSI-78 broad-spectrum topical anti-infective has entered a 280-patient phase-IIb/III trial to treat impetigo, a serious skin infection.
Ortho	Orthoclone OKT3	The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved OKT3, the monoclonal antibody muromonab-CD3, to treat acute rejection in heart and liver transplant patients who are resistant to standard steroidal therapy. FDA approved OKT3 in 1986 to treat acute kidney transplant rejection.
Pharmos	Loteprednol Etabonate	Pharmos reported results of a 110-patient trial of loteprednol etabonate (LE), a corticosteroid currently in phase III trials, to treat contact-lens-associated giant papillary conjunctivits (GPC). Patients receiving LE showed a significant reduction in the primary ocular signs of GPC and showed no elevated intraocular pressure.
Protein Design Labs	Anti-CMV Antibody	The firm reported results of phase I/II trials of its human anti-cytomegalovirus (CMV) antibody in which 17 AIDS patients with CMV retinitis were treated with a combination of the anti-CMV antibody and either ganciclovir or foscarnet, the approved drugs for CMV retinitis. The anti-CMV antibody proved safe and did not provoke immune responses.
Roche Molecular Systems	Amplicor Chlamydia Assay	The first commercial diagnostic kit using PCR technology was approved by the FDA for detection of chlamydia. The assay, which will be marketed to clinical labs worldwide, can detect infection even in difficult samples like male urine.
Sphinx Pharmaceuticals	Kynac	The firm has initiated a 50-patient phase II trial of Kynac (safingol) ointment to treat atopic dermatitis, a common type of eczema.
Univax Biologics	WinRho SD	After completing phase III trials of WinRho SD, a hyperimmune intravenous human polyclonal-antibody preparation, Univax filed a product license application for marketing approval of the drug to treat idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) and ITP secondary to HIV infection, as well as prevention of Rh isoimmunization in newborns.
Viral Technologies	HGP-30 vaccine	A phase I trial of HGP-30 in 39 HIV-negative volunteers showed that the vaccine elicited antibody responses and cytotoxic T-cell responses.
Xoma	rBPI-23	Xoma has completed several phase I trials of rBPI-23, a genetically engineered fragment of human bactericidal/permeability increasing protein, in which 67 volunteers tolerated the protein well. The compound could treat gram-negative sepsis. —**Claire M. Corcoran**