PRODUCT UPDATE

Company	Product	Development
Alkeremes	RMP-7	A phase I/II trial of RMP-7, a compound that enables drugs to cross the blood-brain barrier, has commenced in patients with AIDS-related opportunistic infections of the central nervous system and in patients with brain tumors.
Alteon	Aminoguanidine	Aminoguanidine is entering phase III trials for treatment of diabetic nephropathy and end-stage renal disease.
Bio-Technology General	Growth hormone	The firm's human growth hormone has received a license in Japan.
British Bio-Technology	p24-VLP	The firm has expanded its phase II trials for p24-VLP, a therapeutic AIDS vaccine, in HIV-positive asymptomatic patients.
Cantab	LM-CD45	Preliminary results of phase I/II trials of LM-CD45, a monoclonal antibody for prevention of acute rejection episodes after organ transplants, showed that kidneys pretreated with the antibodies were rejected 22 percent of the time, compared to a 75 percent rejection level in the control group of untreated kidneys.
Celltech	CDP571	The recombinant antibody CDP571, which blocks the action of tumor necrosis factor, has completed phase I trials.
Celtrix	BetaKine	A phase II study has shown BetaKine to be effective in stimulating the repair of macular holes in patients' retinas. Repair was achieved in over 90 percent of patients treated, and substantial vision was restored in 79 percent of patients.
Cephalon	Myotrophin	Phase II/III trials of Myotrophin, human insulin-like growth factor-1, have begun in over 200 patients to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
Chiron-Biocrine	gp120	Phase III trials have begun for two of Chiron-Biocrine's gp120 therapeutic AIDS vaccines and two of Genentech's gp120 therapeutic vaccines. Initially, this trial was to test MicroGeneSys' gp160 therapeutic vaccine. MicroGeneSys withdrew its two gp160 vaccines.
Diatech	P280	The firm has filed an investigational new drug application to begin clinical trials of P280, a radiolabeled peptide for diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary emboli.
Enzon	Oncaspar	The Russian Ministry of Health has approved the chemotherapeutic Oncaspar, PEG-L-asparaginase, to treat a broad range of cancers.
Gynex	Oxandrin	A study has shown that in 273 patients with alcoholic hepatitis oxandrin reduced the mortality rate by over 50 percent.
Immunogen	Oncolysin B	Phase III trials are set to evaluate Oncolysin B, an immunoconjugate, in extending the lifespan of non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma.
Imutec	Virulizin	Canadian phase II trial results indicate that in advanced malignant melanoma patients Virulizin improved one-year survival rates, from 11 percent in non-treated patients to 39 percent in treated patients.
Lidak	Lidakol	Lidakol, an antiviral, is entering phase II trials as a topical treatment for recurrent oral herpes infections.
Magainin	MSI-78	MSI-78, a topical broad spectrum antibiotic, recently completed phase II trials. It will enter trials against impetigo, a pediatric skin infection.
MedImmune	Respirvir	A three-year study of 249 children at high risk for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) found that Respirvir, a polyclonal antibody, reduced the incidence of moderate to severe RSV by 72 percent.
Ortho Biotech	Procrit	Procrit, erythropoietin, is now approved to treat anemia caused by chemotherapy in patients with non-myeloid malignancies.
Pharmos	Adaprolol maleate	Adaprolol maleate, an eye-active beta blocker, has completed phase I trials as a glaucoma treatment.
Pharmos	Pilocarpine emulsion	Pilocarpine, an approved cholinergic drug delivered in a new lipid-based formulation, has entered phase II trials. Phase I trials showed that glaucoma patients using a pilocarpine emulsion experienced a reduction in intraocular pressure of 33 percent for 12 hours.
Agbiotech		
DNA Plant Technology	VineSweet tomato	The firm has commercially launched its VineSweet tomato, which was developed with conventional breeding techniques and which ripens naturally during transport, rather than with the aid of ethylene.

—Claire M. Corcoran