PRODUCT UPDATE

Company	Product	Development
Agouron Pharmaceuticals	AG-85	Agouron has discontinued clinical trials of AG-85, a topical anti-psoriatic that inhibits the enzyme thymidylate synthase.
Amgen-Regeneron	BDNF	Amgen and Regeneron have filed an investigational new drug (IND) application with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to start clinical trials on brain-derived neurotrophic factor in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
Baxter International	DCLHb	Baxter has begun clinical trials of its blood substitute, DCLHb, at a hospital in Tulsa, OK, with plans to expand testing to other hospitals later this year. DCLHb is derived from human hemoglobin, which has been extracted from outdated blood.
Cephalon	Modafinil	Cephalon has filed an IND with FDA for clinical trials of modafinil for the treatment of narcolepsy. The product was approved in France in February 1992 and was awarded orphan-drug designation by FDA earlier this year.
Chiron-Berlex	Betaseron	Chiron has received a license from FDA to manufacture Betaseron. Berlex will exclusively market Betaseron in the U.S. for use in ambulatory patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.
Creative BioMolecules	Dentin Regeneration	Creative BioMolecules has received FDA approval to start clinical trials of its dentin regeneration product, which could serve as an alternative to root-canal procedures by regenerating dentin, the mineralized tissue that protects dental pulp.
Cygnus Therapeutic Systems	Nicotine Transdermal System	Cygnus has filed an IND with FDA for a new generation of nicotine transdermal systems designed to meet the smoking-cessation needs of more-dependent smokers. These patches are in multiple-dose strengths.
Cygnus Therapeutic Systems	Nicotrol	The Canadian Health Protection Branch has approved Nicotrol, Cygnus' nicotine transdermal system, for prescription sale in Canada by the Parke-Davis division of Warner-Lambert Canada.
Idec Pharmaceuticals	Primatized Anti-CD4 Antibody	Idec has received approval from FDA to begin clinical trials on its primatized anti-CD4 antibody for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Primatized antibodies are genetically engineered combinations of macaque monkey and human antibody components.
Lidak Pharmaceuticals	Lidakol	Lidak has completed its European phase-II pilot study of Lidakol, a topical antiherpes drug. Patients with recurring herpes labialis who were treated with Lidakol had an average outbreak period lasting 3.4 days, versus 6.6 days for the placebo group.
MedClone	MAb 3E10 Vaccine	MedClone has received approval from the FDA on its IND for MAb 3E10, an isotype vaccine therapy for the treatment of systemic erythematosus (SLE). MAb 3E10 is believed to elicit the production of anti-idiotypic antibodies by the patient.
MicroProbe	Affirm VP11	Designed for physician-office use, the DNA-probe system diagnoses <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> , <i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i> , and <i>Candida</i> from a single patient sample.
Ribi ImmunoChem Research	Melacine	Ribi has completed collecting 70 patients for its phase-III trial of Melacine melanoma vaccine, which is intended to provoke an immune response against melanoma by a patient's immune system.
SciClone Pharmaceuticals	Thymosin Alpha 1	Schering-Plough, SciClone's Japanese licensee, has obtained approval to begin human testing in Japan of thymosin alpha 1, to treat chronic hepatitis B and C.
SciClone Pharmaceuticals	Zadaxin	SciClone has filed a product license application with the Ministry of Health in the Republic of Singapore to market Zadaxin to treat chronic hepatitis B.
Seragen	DAB ₃₈₉ IL-2	Seragen has filed an IND with FDA for its interleukin-2 receptor-targeted fusion toxin, DAB ₃₈₉ IL-2, to treat plaque-type psoriasis.
Somatogen	rHb1.1	Somatogen has completed dose escalation of its recombinant human hemoglobin, rHb1.1, with 72 subjects having received doses ranging from 1 to 25 grams.

AGBIOTECH

Calgene	BXN Cottons	Calgene has submitted a petition to the Department of Agriculture for final approval of its BXN cotton seed, which is genetically engineered to resist bromoxynil, a herbicide marketed by Rhône-Poulenc under the tradename Buctril.
Crop Genetics International	Kleentek	Crop Genetics International (CGI) has granted exclusive marketing rights to Helena Chemical for its disease-free Kleentek sugarcane seedcane, which results in up to a 15 percent greater yield.

—Mark Goodstein