



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aerpio Therapeutics to Present at Needham Healthcare Conference

Cincinnati, OH, April 7, 2013 – Aerpio Therapeutics, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on advancing innovative therapies for vascular diseases, announced that President and CEO Joseph Gardner, PhD, will present at the 13th Annual Needham Healthcare Conference on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at 9:20 am ET. Dr. Gardner will highlight the Company's lead compound, AKB-9778, a Tie2 activator for the treatment of diabetic macular edema (DME). AKB-9778 is currently being evaluated as a monotherapy and in combination with ranibizumab (Lucentis®) in a randomized, double-masked, double dummy, Phase 2 study enrolling approximately 120 DME patients across 35 sites.

AKB-9778 is a first-in-class inhibitor of human protein tyrosine phosphatase beta (HPTPβ) that activates the Tie2 pathway to promote vascular stability, preventing abnormal blood vessel growth and vascular leak. At the 2013 American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting, Aerpio announced the results of the Phase 1b/2a study, in which AKB-9778 administered subcutaneously as monotherapy to DME patients over 28 days was well-tolerated and produced clinically meaningful reductions in retinal thickness, which correlated with improved visual acuity.

About AKB-9778

AKB-9778 is a first-in-class small molecule that works by inhibiting the human protein tyrosine phosphatase β (HPTPβ) enzyme, which acts as a negative regulator of the Tie2 receptor. By inhibiting this negative regulator, Tie2 signaling is restored, overcoming the effects of the Ang2-induced vascular destabilization. Aerpio is currently focusing development of its lead candidate, AKB-9778, in diabetic macular edema (DME), however, Tie2 activators have potential utility in a range of important clinical indications. In a Phase 1b/2a study in DME patients, AKB-9778 was well tolerated throughout 28 days of dosing, with evidence of disease improvement in some patients. A Phase 2 study to confirm efficacy of AKB-9778 alone and in combination with ranibizumab in patients with DME is currently ongoing.

About Aerpio Therapeutics

Aerpio Therapeutics, Inc. is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on advancing innovative therapies for vascular diseases. Aerpio is a leader in the development of small molecule drugs based on Tie2 activation and the stabilization of hypoxia-inducible factor 1α (HIF-1α). The Company's lead program, AKB-9778, is a first-in-class stabilizer of the Tie2 pathway and is in clinical development for diabetic macular edema. More information is available at www.aerpio.com.

Lucentis® is a registered trademark of Genentech, Inc.

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