

ThromboGenics Announces Start of Phase II Trial of Microplasmin for the Treatment of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

Leuven, Belgium – 11 December 2009 – ThromboGenics NV (Euronext Brussels: THR), a biopharmaceutical company focused on innovative medicines for eye disease, vascular disease and cancer, announces today that it has started a Phase II trial of microplasmin for the treatment of exudative (wet) Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD).

Wet AMD affects approximately five million patients worldwide and this patient population is continuing to grow. Wet AMD occurs when abnormal blood vessels behind the retina start to grow under the macula, the central area of the retina responsible for detailed vision. These blood vessels are often fragile and can leak blood and fluid below the macula, causing damage to the photoreceptors and vision loss. AMD, a disease associated with aging, gradually destroys a patient's vision. It is the most common cause of vision loss in patients aged 50 or older, and represents a market of over \$1 billion annually.

Abnormalities in the vitreomacular interface (the interface of the vitreous and macula) have been implicated in wet AMD, and recent publications have demonstrated that approximately one third of AMD patients have focal vitreomacular adhesion (VMA). VMA is a condition in which the vitreous gel, in the center of the eye, has an abnormally strong adhesion to the retina at the back of the eye, and research has found that this adhesion occurs in the same location as the wet AMD pathology.¹

ThromboGenics is developing microplasmin as a non-surgical treatment for vitreomacular adhesion. Microplasmin has the potential to separate the vitreous from the retina and, as wet AMD is thought to result from the abnormal connection of the vitreous to the retina, it is therefore anticipated that microplasmin could potentially prevent the progression of this highly prevalent disease.

The MIVI 5 (Microplasmin for IntraVitreous Injection) trial is a Phase II, randomized, double-blind, sham controlled trial of microplasmin intravitreal injection (125 µg) for the treatment of focal vitreomacular adhesion (separation of the vitreous from the retina) in patients with exudative (wet) AMD. The trial will enroll approximately 100 patients at up to 20 centers across five European countries. The primary endpoint of the trial is non-surgical resolution of vitreomacular adhesion, defined as the separation of the vitreous from the retina by 28 days. This will be assessed by the Central Reading Center based on optical coherence tomography (OCT) images. Additional measures of efficacy and safety will also be assessed over a one year follow-up period.

Microplasmin has the potential to transform the treatment of a number of other important back of the eye diseases as well as AMD. Microplasmin is currently being evaluated in a Phase III program of approximately 640 patients, for the non-surgical treatment of focal vitreomacular adhesion.

Dr. Patrik De Haes, CEO of ThromboGenics commenting on the announcement said, "We are very pleased to announce the start of a Phase II trial of microplasmin in such a

¹ Robison CD et al, 2009; Mojana J et al, 2008; Krebs I et al, 2007



significant condition as AMD. It is increasingly clear that vitreomacular adhesion plays a key role in AMD sufferers with a poorer prognosis. Microplasmin's potential to cleave the vitreous from the retina could therefore represent an important advance in the treatment of this patient group. The start of this trial underlines the potential broad applicability of our lead product, and is another important step as we create a profitable integrated company focused on cutting edge ophthalmic medicines.”

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About ThromboGenics

ThromboGenics is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of innovative medicines for the treatment of eye disease, vascular disease and cancer. The Company's lead product microplasmin is in Phase III clinical development for the non-surgical treatment of back of the eye diseases. Microplasmin is also being evaluated in Phase II clinical development for additional vitreoretinal conditions. In addition, ThromboGenics is developing novel antibody therapeutics in collaboration with BioInvent International; these include TB-402 (Anti-Factor VIII), a long acting anti-coagulant, and TB-403 (anti-PIGF) for cancer.

ThromboGenics has built strong links with the University of Leuven and the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) and has exclusive rights to certain therapeutics developed at these institutions. ThromboGenics is headquartered in Leuven, Belgium. The Company is listed on NYSE Euronext Brussels under the symbol THR. More information is available at www.thrombogenics.com.

Important information about forward-looking statements

Certain statements in this press release may be considered “forward-looking”. Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, and, accordingly, entail and are influenced by various risks and uncertainties. The Company therefore cannot provide any assurance that such forward-looking statements will materialize and does not assume an obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or any other reason. Additional information concerning risks and



uncertainties affecting the business and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statement is contained in the Company's Annual Report.