Esperion Announces Publication in The Journal of the American Heart Association of Bempedoic Acid Study 3 Results

April 1, 2019

– Study 3 Demonstrated Bempedoic Acid Significantly Lowered LDL-Cholesterol and Reduced hsCRP in Patients Considered Statin Intolerant –
– Over 24-Weeks, Bempedoic Acid Was Observed to be Safe, Well-Tolerated, and the Muscle-Related Adverse Event Rate Did Not Differ from Placebo –
– Bempedoic Acid Is an Oral, Once-daily ATP Citrate Lyase (ACL) Inhibitor that Reduces Cholesterol and Fatty Acid Synthesis in the Liver –
– Research by Ulrich Laufs, MD, PhD published in the Journal of the American Heart Association –

ANN ARBOR, Mich., April 01, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Esperion (NASDAQ:ESPR) announced today that results from the 345 patient, 24-week, Phase 3, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of bempedoic acid (CLEAR Serenity, also known as Study 3) were published today in the *Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA)*. Bempedoic acid is being developed as a complementary, cost-effective, convenient, once-daily, oral therapy for the treatment of patients with elevated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C). Bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablet new drug applications have been submitted to the United States Food and Drug Administration, as well as are under regulatory review for marketing authorization by the European Medicines Agency.

Study 3 evaluated the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of bempedoic acid 180 mg versus placebo in 345 patients with hypercholesterolemia and considered statin intolerant (history of intolerance to at least two statins).

The JAHA publication highlights results from the primary efficacy endpoint of LDL-C lowering at 12-weeks and key secondary endpoints of safety and tolerability over 24-weeks, including that bempedoic acid (BA):

- significantly lowered LDL-cholesterol by 21 percent;
- significantly reduced high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP), an important marker of the underlying inflammation associated with cardiovascular disease, by 25 percent;
- was observed to be safe and well-tolerated;
- did not induce muscle symptoms in statin intolerant patients compared with placebo (BA 12.8% vs placebo 16.2%);
- showed an adverse event rate of 64.1% compared with a placebo event rate of 56.8%, a serious adverse events rate of 6.0% compared with a placebo event rate of 3.6%, with no serious adverse events considered related to study medication;
- showed numerically fewer new-onset or worsening of diabetes compared with the placebo group (BA 2.1% vs 4.5% placebo);

“In the challenging group of patients with statin intolerance, CLEAR Serenity demonstrates that bempedoic acid reduced LDL- cholesterol significantly more than placebo. Patients taking bempedoic acid reported less frequent occurrences of myalgia and muscular weakness compared with placebo. These results demonstrate bempedoic acid could offer a safe and effective oral therapeutic option especially for the millions of patients needing LDL-cholesterol lowering but have difficulty tolerating statin treatment due to muscle-related side effects,” said Ulrich Laufs, MD, PhD.

“For patients who have experienced the side effects commonly attributed to statin treatment and can’t or won’t take statins, there is an urgent need to significantly lower their LDL-cholesterol and hsCRP levels. The publication of the CLEAR Serenity Study in the Journal of American Heart Association further demonstrates that bempedoic acid could be a safe and efficacious treatment option for hypercholesterolemia patients, including those patients considered statin intolerant,” said Bill Sasiela, Senior Vice President, Clinical Development at Esperion.

Design of Global Phase 3 Study 3 (1002-046, also known CLEAR Serenity)

The 24-week, global pivotal Phase 3 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter study evaluated the LDL-C lowering efficacy and safety of bempedoic acid 180 mg/day versus placebo added to background lipid-modifying therapy in patients with hypercholesterolemia who are considered statin intolerant. The study was conducted at 67 sites in the U.S. and Canada. A total of 345 patients were randomized 2:1 to receive bempedoic acid or placebo. The primary efficacy objective was to assess the 12-week LDL-C lowering efficacy of bempedoic acid versus placebo. Secondary objectives included evaluating the 24-week LDL-C lowering efficacy of bempedoic acid versus placebo, the safety and tolerability of bempedoic acid versus placebo, and its effects on other risk markers after 12 weeks of treatment, including hsCRP.

Bempedoic Acid / Ezetimibe Combination Tablet

Through the complementary mechanisms of action of inhibition of cholesterol synthesis (bempedoic acid) and inhibition of cholesterol absorption (ezetimibe), the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablet is our lead, non-statin, orally available, once-daily, LDL-C lowering therapy. Inhibition of ATP Citrate Lyase (ACL) by bempedoic acid reduces cholesterol biosynthesis and lowers LDL-C by up-regulating the LDL receptor. Inhibition of Niemann-Pick C1-Like 1 (NPC1L1) by ezetimibe results in reduced absorption of cholesterol from the gastrointestinal tract, thereby reducing delivery of cholesterol to the liver, which in turn upregulates the LDL receptors. Phase 3 data demonstrated that this safe and well-tolerated combination results in a 35 percent lowering of LDL-C when used with maximally tolerated statins, a 43 percent lowering of LDL-C when used as a monotherapy, and a 34 percent reduction in high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP).

Bempedoic Acid

With a targeted mechanism of action, bempedoic acid is a first-in-class, complementary, orally available, once-daily ATP Citrate Lyase inhibitor that,

reduces cholesterol biosynthesis and lowers LDL-C by up-regulating the LDL receptor. Similar to statins, bempedoic acid also reduces hsCRP, a key marker of inflammation associated with cardiovascular disease. Completed Phase 2 and Phase 3 studies conducted in almost 4,800 patients, and approximately 3,100 patients treated with bempedoic acid, have demonstrated an additional 20 percent LDL-C lowering when used with maximally tolerated statins, up to 30 percent LDL-C lowering as monotherapy, 35 percent LDL-C lowering in combination with ezetimibe when used with maximally tolerated statins and up to 48 percent LDL-C lowering in combination with ezetimibe as monotherapy.

The effect of bempedoic acid on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality has not yet been determined. The company initiated a global cardiovascular outcomes trial (CVOT) to assess the effects of bempedoic acid on the occurrence of major cardiovascular events in patients with, or at high risk for, cardiovascular disease (CVD) who are only able to tolerate less than the lowest approved daily starting dose of a statin and considered "statin intolerant." The CVOT — known as CLEAR Outcomes — is an event-driven, global, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study expected to enroll approximately 12,600 patients with hypercholesterolemia and high CVD risk at over 1,000 sites in approximately 30 countries.

Esperion's Commitment to Patients with Hypercholesterolemia

High levels of LDL-C can lead to a build-up of fat and cholesterol in and on artery walls (known as atherosclerosis), potentially leading to cardiovascular events, including heart attack or stroke. In the U.S., 96 million people, or more than 37 percent of the adult population have elevated LDL-C. There are approximately 18 million people in the U.S. with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) who live with elevated levels of LDL-C despite taking maximally tolerated lipid-modifying therapy — including individuals considered statin intolerant — leaving them at high risk for cardiovascular events. More than 50 percent of ASCVD patients who are not able to reach their LDL-C goals with statins alone, need less than a 40 percent reduction to reach their LDL-C threshold.

Esperion's mission as the Lipid Management Company is to deliver once-daily, oral therapies that complement existing oral drugs to provide the additional LDL-C lowering that these patients need.

The Lipid Management Company

Esperion is the Lipid Management Company, passionately committed to developing and commercializing complementary, cost-effective, convenient, once-daily, oral therapies for the treatment of patients with elevated LDL-C. Through scientific and clinical excellence, and a deep understanding of cholesterol biology, the experienced Lipid Management Team at Esperion is committed to developing new LDL-C lowering therapies that will make a substantial impact on reducing global cardiovascular disease; the leading cause of death around the world. Bempedoic acid and the company's lead product candidate, the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablet, are targeted therapies that have been shown to significantly lower elevated LDL-C levels in patients with hypercholesterolemia, including patients inadequately treated with current lipid-modifying therapies. For more information, please visit www.esperion.com and follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/EsperionInc.

Forward Looking Statement: Esperion

This press release contains forward-looking statements that are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the federal securities laws, including statements regarding the regulatory approval pathway for the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablet and bempedoic acid and the therapeutic potential of, clinical development plan for, the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablet and bempedoic acid, including Esperion's timing, designs, plans and announcement of results regarding its CLEAR Outcomes study and other ongoing clinical studies for bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablet, Esperion's expectations for the market for therapies to lower LDL-C, including the market adoption of bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablet, if approved, and Esperion’s cash position and financial outlook. Any express or implied statements contained in this press release that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause Esperion's actual results to differ significantly from those projected, including, without limitation, delays or failures in Esperion’s studies, that positive results from a clinical study of bempedoic acid may not be sufficient for FDA or EMA approval or necessarily be predictive of the results of future or ongoing clinical studies, that notwithstanding the completion of Esperion’s Phase 3 clinical development program for LDL-C lowering, the FDA or EMA may require additional development in connection with seeking regulatory approval, that Esperion or its strategic collaborators are able to successfully commercialize the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablet and bempedoic acid, if approved, that existing cash resources may be used more quickly than anticipated, and the risks detailed in Esperion's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Esperion disclaims any obligation or undertaking to update or revise any forward-looking statements contained in this press release, other than to the extent required by law.

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