

## **IDM will present phase II trial results for its melanoma cancer vaccine, Uvidem<sup>®</sup>, at ASCO (Orlando) on May 15, 2005**

Paris, France – May 9, 2005. **IDM (Immuno-Designed Molecules)**, a biopharmaceutical company which recently announced a business combination with Epimmune Inc. (Nasdaq : EPMN), will present the results of a phase II trial of its cancer vaccine, Uvidem, for the treatment of patients with melanoma, at the Annual Meeting of ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) in Orlando, Florida. This presentation will be given on May 15, 2005, as part of the “Immunotherapy General Poster Session” program, from 8 AM to 12 PM.

Uvidem is a therapeutic vaccine developed by IDM in partnership with Sanofi-Aventis. It consists of dendritic cells loaded with lysates prepared from melanoma cell lines. The phase II trial to be presented included 60 patients with stage IV melanoma and was conducted at 12 clinical centers in France and Australia. The primary endpoint of this trial was to assess the safety and immune response following this treatment.

The results of the trial showed that Uvidem was well tolerated: most side effects observed were mild or moderate and without direct link to the treatment. In 77% of the 13 patients who received the full treatment (6 injections), an immune response against tumor-associated antigens (Melan-A/MART1, NY-ESO-1, Tyrosinase or gp100) was detected after vaccination. There was no complete or partial responses but stabilization of disease was reported in 10 patients. The correlation between immune response and disease stabilization will be discussed during the presentation of the results at ASCO.

Based on these encouraging results, IDM has initiated another phase II trial of Uvidem in the US, which will include 37 patients with stage III or IV melanoma. The first patient was enrolled in this trial in April 2005.

Melanoma accounts for 5% of skin cancers but is responsible for 70% of deaths from skin cancer. It is the 7<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in the USA. There are approximately 54,000 new cases in the United States each year and 60,000 new cases in Europe.

[IDM, which is](#) specialized in immunotherapy for the treatment of cancer and is [privately held, recently announced that](#) more than 93% of its shareholders have [entered into a definitive agreement to combine](#) IDM [with publicly traded Epimmune Inc. in an all-stock transaction expected to close in the second or third quarter of 2005. Epimmune has filed a proxy statement with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the transaction, which is subject to approval by the Epimmune stockholders and certain other closing conditions.](#)

### **About IDM**

IDM is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of innovative products to treat and control cancer while maintaining the patient's quality of life. IDM is currently developing two lines of products: one aiming at the destruction of residual cancer cells after the use of traditional therapies, and the other to prevent tumor recurrence by triggering an immune response. IDM's most advanced product has completed a Phase III clinical trial, five other products are in clinical trials and five are in preclinical development. For more information, visit [www.idm-biotech.com](http://www.idm-biotech.com).

Cont'd

### **Where You Can Find Additional Information About IDM's Proposed Combination with Epimmune**

Epimmune Inc. has filed a preliminary proxy statement concerning its proposed combination with IDM with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Investors and security holders are advised to read the proxy statement related to the proposed transaction because it contains important information related to the transaction. Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of the proxy statement and other documents filed by Epimmune with the SEC at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. The proxy statement and any other documents filed by Epimmune with the SEC may also be obtained free of charge from Epimmune by directing such request to Epimmune's Secretary at the following address: 5820 Nancy Ridge Drive, San Diego, California 92121.

### **Information Concerning Participation in Epimmune's Proxy Solicitation**

IDM and Epimmune and their respective executive officers and directors may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of Epimmune with respect to the proposed transaction between Epimmune and IDM. Information regarding Epimmune's executive officers and directors is included in Epimmune's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC for the year ended December 31, 2004. This document is available free of charge at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and from Epimmune at <http://www.epimmune.com>. Investors and security holders may obtain additional information about the interests of the respective executive officers and directors of Epimmune and IDM in the proposed transaction between Epimmune and IDM by reviewing the proxy statement related to the transaction filed with the SEC.

#### **IDM press contact:**

Nadine Sciacca, Communication Director  
Tel.: +33 (0) 1 40 09 04 11  
E-mail: [nsciacca@idm-biotech.com](mailto:nsciacca@idm-biotech.com).

#### **Euro RSCG C&O :**

Marie-Carole de Groc/Florence Macaire  
+33 (0)1 58 47 95 07/+33 (0)1 58 47 95 18  
[marie-carole.de-groc@eurorscg.fr](mailto:marie-carole.de-groc@eurorscg.fr)  
[florence.macaire@eurorscg.fr](mailto:florence.macaire@eurorscg.fr)