



## **Study Of ABX-CBL In Steroid Resistant Graft Versus Host Disease Does Not Meet Primary Endpoint**

Fremont, CA - February 18, 2003 - SangStat Medical Corporation (Nasdaq: SANG) and Abgenix (Nasdaq: ABGX) disclosed today that Phase II/III study results indicate ABX-CBL demonstrated a survival rate at 180 days in patients with acute steroid-resistant graft vs. host disease (GVHD) that was similar to Atgam® (anti-Thymocyte globulin, equine, Pharmacia), the study's control arm. ABX-CBL is a murine anti-CD147 monoclonal antibody in co-development by Abgenix and SangStat. The study was designed to demonstrate superior survival with ABX-CBL, and, therefore, did not meet its primary endpoint. The companies do not plan further development of ABX-CBL.

"The ABX-CBL study results are unambiguous, and SangStat intends to focus its current efforts in the bone marrow transplant arena on Thymoglobulin," said Richard D. Murdock, Interim Chairman, President and CEO at SangStat. "While we are disappointed that the results were not favorable, turning off the ABX-CBL program will allow SangStat to channel all our resources toward our internal development programs."

"ABX-CBL was an in-licensed murine antibody which was being developed for a small market, the approximately 2,000 patients per year in the United States who contract steroid-resistant GVHD. Thus, it was not expected to make a large contribution to the future profitability of Abgenix, though we are disappointed that this patient group will not be receiving a therapeutic benefit," said Raymond Withy, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Abgenix. "We will continue to focus our clinical efforts on ABX-EGF, our lead cancer product candidate, and on building our integrated fully human antibody discovery, development and manufacturing business."

SangStat reiterates its financial guidance for 2003 of \$0.35 - \$0.45 EPS. SangStat intends to redirect any resources earmarked for ABX-CBL toward the ongoing development of Thymoglobulin® (anti-Thymocyte globulin), the Company's successful rabbit polyclonal antibody.

### **SangStat**

SangStat is a global biotechnology company focused on immunology and working to discover, develop and market high value therapeutic products in the autoimmune, hematology/oncology and immunosuppression areas. SangStat's U.S. headquarters are in Fremont, California. SangStat also maintains a strong international presence, including direct sales and marketing forces in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the UK, and distributors throughout the rest of the world. SangStat's stock is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol "SANG." The company's web site is located at [www.sangstat.com](http://www.sangstat.com).

### **Abgenix**

Abgenix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of human therapeutic antibodies. The company's technology platform, which includes XenoMouse® and XenoMax(TM) technologies, enables the rapid generation and selection of high affinity, fully human antibody product candidates to a variety of disease targets. Abgenix leverages its leadership position in human antibody technology by building a diversified product portfolio through the development of its own internal proprietary products and through the establishment of licensing arrangements with multiple pharmaceutical, biotechnology and genomics companies. For more information on Abgenix, visit the company's website at [www.abgenix.com](http://www.abgenix.com).

Statements made in this press release about Abgenix' technologies, product development activities, collaborative arrangements and manufacturing activities, other than statements of historical fact, and about its projected financial results, are forward-looking statements and are subject to a number of uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the statements made, including risks associated with the success of clinical trials, the progress of research and product development programs, product manufacturing, the regulatory approval process, competitive products, future capital requirements and the extent and breadth of Abgenix' patent portfolio. Please see Abgenix' public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for information about risks that may affect Abgenix.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements reflect SangStat's current views with respect to future events. Forward-looking statements include plans for the development of ABX-CBL and Thymoglobulin, as well as SangStat's financial results for 2003. Actual results may vary materially and adversely from those anticipated, believed, estimated, or otherwise indicated. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, without limitation: progress and results of the Thymoglobulin studies; market conditions or other developments such as new competitors; increased sales or price reductions by competitors; reduction in margin on key products; reduction in demand or failure of demand to reach anticipated

levels; manufacturing matters and potential delays; increases in expenses; changes in reimbursement for products; patent and other litigation including results from the pending Gengraf litigation; licensing or product transactions; delays in clinical trial enrollment; complications or delays in conducting pre-clinical or clinical trials; requests from the regulatory agencies for additional clinical trials; or changes in management. For a discussion of these and other factors that might result in different outcomes, see "Risk Factors" in SangStat's 2001 Annual Report on Form 10-K, its 2002 quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and other documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. SangStat assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements, risks or reasons why actual results might differ.

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