



### **Abgenix Announces ABX-EGF Enters Pivotal Trial in Advanced Colorectal Cancer Patients**

FREMONT, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 20, 2004--Abgenix, Inc. (Nasdaq:ABGX) today announced that its partner, Amgen, is beginning a pivotal trial for its fully human monoclonal antibody, ABX-EGF, as a third-line monotherapy in colorectal cancer patients, with enrollment expected to begin shortly. The trial initiation follows the receipt of a Special Protocol Assessment (SPA) letter from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The SPA endorses the design of the trial to support a regulatory submission for a potential accelerated approval. SPA was introduced by the FDA modernization act of 1997 and was first implemented in May 2002. A second pivotal trial is being initiated concurrently outside the US, as part of a comprehensive global development program for ABX-EGF.

"We are pleased that this important goal has been achieved early in the year," said Ray Withy, Ph.D., president and CEO of Abgenix. "We look forward to further progress on the program, as ABX-EGF moves toward commercialization."

#### About ABX-EGF

ABX-EGF is a fully human monoclonal antibody that targets the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFr), which is expressed in a variety of cancers including lung, breast, pancreatic, bladder, prostate, colorectal, kidney and head and neck cancers. Research has demonstrated that cancer cells can become dependent on growth signals mediated through EGFr for their survival. In preclinical research, ABX-EGF monotherapy has been shown to inhibit the growth of human tumors in mice. Clinical studies to date have demonstrated single-agent activity and a favorable pharmacokinetic and tolerability profile.

Co-developed by Abgenix and Amgen, ABX-EGF is being evaluated in a comprehensive global clinical program.

#### About Abgenix

Abgenix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and manufacturing of human therapeutic antibodies. The company's antibody development platform includes a leading technology and state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities that enable the rapid generation, selection and production of high affinity, fully human antibody product candidates to a variety of disease targets. Abgenix leverages its leadership position in human antibody technology to build a diversified product portfolio through the establishment of collaborations with multiple pharmaceutical and biotechnology 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's 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's patent portfolio. Please see Abgenix's public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for information about risks that may affect Abgenix.

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