



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Drug Safety Executive Council Presents:
Improved Strategies for Pre-clinical Cardiac Testing**

Renowned Panel Live on June 23

June 21, 2010, NEEDHAM, MA – Three leading scientists in the field of cardiac safety in pre-clinical drug development are gathering to discuss Improved Strategies for Pre-clinical Cardiac Testing in a free webinar on June 23 at 11:00 a.m. EDT, sponsored by the Drug Safety Council (DSEC).

The panel features Arthur “Buzz” Brown, M.D., Ph.D., founder, president and CEO of ChanTest www.chantest.com, David J. Gallacher, BSc., Ph.D. senior director, Center of Excellence for Cardiovascular Safety Research, Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, a division of Janssen Pharmaceutica, Belgium www.jnjpharmarnd.com, and Gary Gintant, senior group leader, Department of Integrative Pharmacology, Global Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Abbott Laboratories www.abbott.com.

The discussion will include strategies for enhancing predictivity; applying and interpreting pharmacologically relevant data sets; using new pre-clinical assays for cardiotoxicity assessment; and avoiding current discordances between S7B-recommended assays (hERG, *in vivo* QT) and Phase I observations by adopting more relevant *in vitro* models.

Dr. Brown is an entrepreneur and recognized expert in the field of molecular physiology and pharmacology of ion channels and their clinical relevance for cardiac drug safety. His lab was the first to identify the hERG potassium channel as the unintended target for the cardiotoxic effects of Seldane and Propulsid, both of which were subsequently withdrawn from the market.

Dr. Gallacher started his career in stroke research at Pfizer Central Research, UK, then spent four years at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, University of London in the field of central control of the cardiovascular

system. In 1996, he joined a new company, Quintiles Preclinical in Edinburgh, where he started, developed and managed the in vivo cardiovascular safety research group to become the biggest cardiovascular pharmacology group in the CRO world. He joined Johnson & Johnson in 2003.

Dr. Gary Gintant is Senior Group Leader in the Dept. of Integrative Pharmacology, Global Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Abbott Laboratories, where he heads the Early Preclinical Studies Group. He is actively involved in various cardiac risk assessment / QT interval committees (including the ILSI/HESI Cardiovascular Risk Assessment Committee and Abbott QT Working Group) and has served on various NIH study sections and as advisor to the National Institutes for Drug Abuse regarding cardiac toxicity.

To register for the **Wednesday, June 23 webinar at 11 a.m. EDT**, go to: http://www.drugsafetycouncil.org/pages/879_live_webinar_improved_strategies_for_pre_clinical_cardiac_testing_june_23_cfm

About ChanTest Corporation (www.chantest.com)

ChanTest's mission is to serve the research, drug discovery and drug development needs of customers worldwide with high-value solutions for ion channel and GPCR biology. Since its inception in 1998, the company has tested compounds for more than 500 global pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and partners with them to speed the drug development process for the release of better, safer drugs. ChanTest offers integrated ion channel and GPCR services (GLP and non-GLP) and reagents; the company's library of validated ion channel cell lines and pre-clinical cardiac risk assessment service portfolio are the most comprehensive commercially available today. Because of ChanTest's seminal role in the pre-clinical cardiac safety field, along with the company's uncompromising commitment to quality, ChanTest has been named the "most trusted and most used fee-for-service provider" for ion channel screening in an independent survey for the past three years. ChanTest is based in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information, e-mail info@chantest.com.

About The Drug Safety Executive Council (DSEC)

DSEC is a peer membership of 2,000 drug safety leaders with the common objective of advancing the development of better and safer medicines. Regular membership is complimentary and limited to current employees of companies developing small and large molecule pharmaceuticals. DSEC also manages a Technology Evaluation Consortium, made up of multiple biopharmaceutical companies, that qualifies novel, preclinical safety

platforms. Learn more at www.drugsafetycouncil.org. Follow DSEC at www.twitter.com/drugsafetyexec.

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