



For Immediate Release

April 17, 2008

Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma Co., Ltd.

**Anti-hypertension drug “Avapro®” obtained
manufacturing and marketing approval**

Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Osaka, Japan; President: Kenjiro Miyatake) announces that the Company has obtained a manufacturing and marketing approval for “Avapro® tablet 50 mg / 100 mg” (generic name: irbesartan) as of April 16, 2008 from Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Avapro® is a long-acting ARB (angiotensin II receptor antagonist) with a long half-life in blood and a 24-hour-lasting blood pressure-lowering effect, having high anti-hypertensive effect in mild to severe hypertension.

Irbesartan was discovered by sanofi-aventis (Head Office: Paris, France), co-developed by sanofi-aventis and Bristol Myers Squibb (Head Office: New York State) and was launched in 1997 overseas. This drug is currently sold in 86 countries under the brand name of Avapro and Aprovel. Based on the large-scale clinical trials, IDNT and IRMA2, which are often cited in the major international guidelines, this drug is also recognized as the only one ARB with evidence for its renoprotective effect in hypertensive type 2 diabetic patients covering both early-stage and overt nephropathy at 300mg/day, and is highly regarded as one of the top ARB brands.

The Company intends to launch Avapro® after it is listed in the national health insurance drug price standard.

The Company sells a variety of antihypertensive drugs including Amlodin®, a long-acting calcium antagonist, and anticipates further contribution to treatment of high blood pressure through the expansion of antihypertensive product line with the addition of Avapro®.



(Reference)

Profile of “Avapro® for anti-hypertention”

[Brand Name]	Avapro®
[Generic Name]	irbesartan
[Content / Description]	White to yellowish-white scored film-coated oval tablets, containing 50mg or 100mg of irbesartan per tablet
[Indication]	hypertension
[Dosage and Administration]	Usually for adults, 50-100 mg of irbesartan orally administered once a day. The dosage may be adjusted depending on the patient's age and symptoms. The maximum daily dosage is 200 mg.
[Manufacturer and Distributor]	Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma, Co., Ltd.