PRESS RELEASE

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Tranzyme Pharma Announces Issuance of Three New Patents Further Strengthening Company's Advanced Ghrelin Agonist Programs

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (March 11, 2009) - Tranzyme Pharma, a late stage biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery and development of first-in-class small molecule therapeutics, announced today that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has issued three patents further enhancing Tranzyme's intellectual property portfolio for its current and future drug candidates. They are:

- US 7,476,653: Macrocyclic modulators of the ghrelin receptor
- US 7,491,695: Methods of using macrocyclic modulators of the ghrelin receptor
- US 7,452,862: Conformationally-controlled biologically active macrocyclic small molecules as motilin antagonists or ghrelin agonists

Combined, these patents, with terms until at least 2024, provide strong and broad protection for the chemical structural class comprising Tranzyme's lead pharmaceutical development programs. Further, they provide Tranzyme with specific protection for the therapeutic uses of its ghrelin agonists in the treatment of gastrointestinal (GI) motility disorders, and for the composition-of-matter of the Company's most advanced drug candidate, TZP-101. TZP-101 is an intravenous ghrelin agonist ready to enter Phase 3 studies for the management of postoperative ileus (POI).

In addition, these patents expand coverage around the Company's proven drug discovery technology, Macrocyclic Template Chemistry (MATCH™), from which Tranzyme's entire pipeline of novel therapeutics is derived.

"The validation by the USPTO of the novelty of TZP-101 and its uses is another significant milestone in bringing new therapeutic options to market for the treatment of serious and costly unmet medical needs," said Vipin K. Garg, PhD, Tranzyme's President and CEO. "We expect this drug will become the first-line option for the treatment of POI, a condition for which nearly 1 million open surgical patients are at risk in the U.S. each year, as well as for other indications in acute settings where an intravenous prokinetic drug is required."

"These patent issuances reflect our strategy to construct a broad and robust IP portfolio to protect each of our pharmaceutical development programs as well as the underlying technology," stated Mark L. Peterson, PhD, Vice President, Intellectual Property & Operations, for Tranzyme Pharma.

About Postoperative Ileus
Postoperative ileus is a transient impairment of GI motility following abdominal or other surgery with symptoms which can include abdominal distention, pain, nausea and vomiting, and inability to pass stools and tolerate a solid diet. Delays in resuming a normal diet may lead to poor healing and patients are at greater risk for pulmonary complications since POI may result in reduced patient mobility. POI is associated with an increased length of hospital stay and is the most common cause of delayed hospital discharge after abdominal surgery. In the United States alone, nearly 1 million people undergo high risk open surgery each year (Source: Premier Database). No unrestricted treatments for POI have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to date.

About TZP-101
TZP-101, Tranzyme's intravenous ghrelin agonist, is the first product from the Company's internal drug discovery efforts. TZP-101 is being evaluated clinically for the treatment of POI and gastroparesis in acute care settings and has the potential to address other indications requiring administration of intravenous prokinetic agents. In addition to the recent successful POI Phase 2b trial, an additional Phase 2b trial for the management of gastroparesis is nearing completion. The safety and pharmacokinetic profiles of TZP-101 have been extensively characterized in healthy subjects across multiple dose levels, and the GI prokinetic properties of the compound have been well established in humans and various animal models, with or without concomitant opioids. In addition to TZP-101, Tranzyme is developing an oral ghrelin agonist, TZP-102, for the out-patient treatment of gastroparesis and other chronic GI motility disorders, including GERD and functional dyspepsia. TZP-102 will enter Phase 2 trials later this year.

About Tranzyme Pharma
Tranzyme Pharma is a late stage biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery and development of first-in-class small molecule therapeutics for the treatment of both acute care (hospital-based) and chronic indications with significant unmet medical needs.

Tranzyme has developed a pipeline of novel drugs through its proprietary MATCH™ drug discovery technology, which accelerates the progression of compounds from discovery to commercial track by generating small molecule drug candidates that display the favorable characteristics exhibited by large biomolecules, such as tight receptor binding for high potency and exquisite target selectivity, while maintaining the benefits typically associated with small molecule drugs including oral bioavailability, cost of synthesis, and ease of formulation. For more information, please visit: www.tranzyme.com.

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