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Avicanna Files Complete Patent Specifications Relating to a Novel Cannabinoid Formulation for Reducing Incidence of Seizures and Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy

Recent in-vivo studies conducted in partnership with the University of Toronto confirm Formulation Candidate's anti-seizure properties allowing for formalization of the patent application

TORONTO, October 20, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Avicanna Inc. (“**Avicanna**” or the “**Company**”) (TSX: AVCN) (OTCQX: AVCNF) (FSE: 0NN), a commercial stage, international biopharmaceutical company focused on the commercialization of evidence-based, cannabinoid-based products, is pleased to announce that it has formalized its provisional patent application, entitled "Methods for Reducing or Eliminating Incidence of Seizures and Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy", for the use of a novel cannabinoid formulation (the “Formulation Candidate”) after completion of *in-vivo* animal studies.

The formal application is filed with WIPO by claiming the priority date of US provisional application filed in September 2022 using the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) system.

The research findings originated from Avicanna’s ongoing multi-level collaboration with leading epilepsy researcher Dr. Peter Carlen from the world-renowned Krembil Research Institute at the University Health Network (“UHN”). Preliminary electrophysiological studies on seizure-induced cortical slices taken from wildtype mouse determined that treatment with the Formulation Candidate produced significant anti-convulsant effects compared to treatment with cannabidiol (“CBD”) or tetrahydrocannabinol (“THC”) alone. These results, obtained in a well-established *in vitro* model, suggest that, in addition to anti-convulsant properties, the Formulation Candidate demonstrates strong potential to treat patients diagnosed with intractable forms of epilepsies and those at risk of seizure-induced Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (“SUDEP”). Studies on the mechanism of action of those cannabinoids in the Formulation Candidate confirmed that the cannabinoids acted as selective 5-HT_{1A} receptor agonists similar to established 5-HT_{1A} receptor agonists in seizure-like events.

The formulation candidate was tested further in the maximal electroshock (MES) *in vivo* animal models to confirm the anti-seizure effects in comparison to CBD alone. The research was carried out by Dr. Mac Burnham’s team at the University of Toronto. The Formulation Candidate further demonstrated strong anti-convulsant properties and therapeutic index value as compared to CBD alone. These results further substantiated the patent claims on the use of formulation candidate for reducing seizures and sudden unexpected death in epilepsy patients. Avicanna intends to advance this Formulation Candidate through its drug delivery platform and progress it through pre-clinical studies with a view towards potential future clinical studies.

"The exceptional collaborative research conducted by our R&D team with Dr. Carlen’s and Dr. Burnham’s teams and the resulting patent submission will be a major driver for long-term drug

and clinical development plans. It is also a validation of the potential our scientific platform and drug pipeline have. Validating the anti-convulsant properties of our proprietary formulation in seizure disorders is important particularly since this combination drug has potential to reduce the likelihood of seizure-induced sudden death in epilepsy patients” commented Dr. Frantz Le Devedec, Executive Vice President of Research and Product Development

About Avicanna Inc.

Avicanna is a commercial-stage international biopharmaceutical company focused on the advancement and commercialization of evidence-based cannabinoid-based products for the global medical and pharmaceutical market segments. Avicanna has an established scientific platform including R&D and clinical development that has led to the commercialization of more than thirty products across various market segments:

Medical Cannabis & Wellness Products: Marketed under the RHO Phyto™ brand these medical and wellness products are a line of pharmaceutical-grade cannabinoid products containing varying ratios of cannabidiol (“CBD”) and tetrahydrocannabinol (“THC”). The product portfolio contains a full formulary of products including oral, sublingual, topical, and transdermal deliveries that have controlled dosing, enhanced absorption and stability studies supported by pre-clinical data. The formulary is marketed with consumer, patient and medical-community education and training.

Pharmaceutical Pipeline: Leveraging Avicanna’s scientific platform, vertical integration, and real-world evidence, Avicanna has created a pipeline of patent-pending drug candidates that are indication-specific and in various stages of clinical development and commercialization. These cannabinoid-based drug candidates look to address unmet medical needs in the areas of dermatology, chronic pain, and various neurological disorders. Avicanna’s first pharmaceutical preparation (Trunerox™) is in the drug registration stage in South America.

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The Company posts updates through videos from the official Company [YouTube](#) channel.

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