Deciphera Pharmaceuticals Announces Initiation of Phase 1 Cancer Trial for LY3009120 Pan-RAF Inhibitor Created and Developed in Collaboration with Eli Lilly

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Deciphera Pharmaceuticals, a clinical stage biotechnology company focused on improved kinase inhibitor treatments for cancer, today announced the initiation of a Phase 1 clinical trial of its pan-RAF inhibitor LY3009120 (DP-4978), under development in collaboration with Eli Lilly. The Phase 1 trial will evaluate the safety, tolerability and initial efficacy of LY3009120 in cancer patients. Data demonstrating the preclinical activity of LY3009120 in cancer were recently presented at the New Drugs on the Horizon plenary session at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) national meeting, held April 5-9, 2014 in San Diego. LY3009120 emerged from a collaboration between Eli Lilly and Deciphera Pharmaceuticals, LLC. Deciphera received a $6 million development milestone for initiation of Phase 1 studies.

“We are pleased with Lilly’s decision to advance LY3009120 into clinical development based on the encouraging preclinical data demonstrated to date and look forward to reporting on its future progress,” says Deciphera CSO, Daniel Flynn. “This product candidate provides an important new option for cancer patients in need of durable inhibition of multiple RAF forms. This milestone also marks another significant event for Deciphera as a clinical stage oncology company.”

LY3009120 is a small molecule kinase inhibitor that has been shown to inhibit known characterized RAF isoforms, and potentially blocks proliferation in both BRAF and RAS mutant cancer cells. LY3009120 broadly blocks signaling of cellular RAF homo/heterodimers including CRAF containing dimers, thus minimizing paradoxical pathway activation and resistance mechanisms associated with selective BRAF inhibitors. Such paradoxical pathway stimulation is associated with side effects of these selective B-RAF inhibiting drugs, including cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma and other hyperplasias. As a pan-RAF inhibitor, LY3009120 blocks aberrant cancer signaling through RAS protein mutations, known to be prevalent in approximately 30% of all human cancers.

Initiated in late 2013, the Phase I study of LY3009120 is in patients with advanced cancer or cancer that has spread to other parts of their body. More information, including enrollment criteria, can be found at http://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02014116?term=neuroendocrine+cance.