



## **Immunotope OCPM Vaccine to be Evaluated in Phase I Ovarian Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Trial**

Trial to evaluate safety and immune response to multi-antigen immunotherapeutic vaccine

DOYLESTOWN PA (August 19, 2005)- Immunotope, Inc., a company developing a new generation of immunotherapeutics for the treatment of cancer and chronic infectious diseases, announced today that it has submitted an Investigational New Drug application (IND) to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in collaboration with Duke University to initiate a Phase I ovarian cancer clinical trial. The trial will evaluate safety and immune response to Immunotope's proprietary multi-peptide OCPM immunotherapeutic vaccine. This will be the first-ever cancer vaccine clinical trial to use a cocktail of novel peptide antigens to treat ovarian cancer.

Immunotope's vaccine consists of peptides derived from twelve different proteins essential to tumor survival, growth and metastasis and is designed to elicit an immune response to cancer cells that remain in the body after surgery and chemotherapy, enabling the patient's own immune system to detect and destroy residual tumor cells and to prevent cancer recurrence. In preclinical studies, cytotoxic T cell responses were generated to all of the vaccine component peptides. In addition, the cytotoxic T cells activated against each of these peptides recognized a panel of different ovarian tumor cell lines but did not recognize normal ovary cells. Several of these peptides are also presented by MHC molecules on multiple other tumor types, indicating the broad potential to use these peptides for immunotherapy treatment of other forms of cancer.

"Submitting an IND for our OCPM ovarian cancer immunotherapeutic vaccine is a significant milestone for Immunotope" said Ramila Philip, President and CSO of Immunotope. "We believe that immunotherapy based on antigens that are naturally presented by MHC molecules can potentially be useful in treating a number of solid tumors".

Immunotope technology takes advantage of the fact that all cells have a distinctive 'signature' composed of tens of thousands of peptides, or antigens, displayed on the cell surface by specialized immune system proteins called the Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC). Tumor cells have a distinct MHC-antigen signature that is different from normal, healthy cells. Immunotope identifies tumor-specific antigens in the cancer cell MHC 'signature' using proprietary immunoproteomics technologies. When these antigens are formulated into a vaccine, the patient's immune system is able to mount a potent and long-lasting immune response against cancer cells that display these antigens in their MHC signature, leaving healthy cells unaffected. Immunotherapeutic vaccines using MHC associated peptides have demonstrated a positive clinical response in melanoma patients.

The clinical trial will be conducted at the Duke University Cancer Center.

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**About Ovarian cancer**

Epithelial ovarian cancer causes nearly 14,000 deaths in the U.S. annually; with approximately 23,000 to 25,000 new cases diagnosed each year. This highly lethal form of cancer is typically asymptomatic until well advanced and sixty percent of patients are diagnosed after the cancer has spread when the five-year survival rate is less than thirty percent. Although many patients initially respond to combinations of surgery and chemotherapy, recurrence occurs in nearly ninety percent of ovarian cancer patients.

**About Immunotope**

IMMUNOTOPE is a privately held biotechnology company focused on the development of immunotherapy products for the treatment and diagnosis of cancer and chronic infectious diseases. Immunotope's immunotherapeutic product platform is based on antigens naturally presented by Major Histocompatibility Complex Class I and Class II molecules that elicit a strong T cell-mediated immune response that enable a patient's own immune system to attack and destroy diseased cells, leaving healthy cells unaffected. Immunotope's diagnostics product platform identifies antigens that react with serum autoantibodies for the development of noninvasive serum-based diagnostics for the detection of early stage cancer. Immunotope's proprietary immunoproteomics technologies identify antigens critical to the development of safe and efficacious immunotherapeutics without the complications of autoimmunity. . Immunotope is located at the Jefferson Center for Biomedical Research in Doylestown PA. More information can be found at the Company's website, [www.immunotope.com](http://www.immunotope.com)

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