



Aclaris Therapeutics Announces Issuance of Two U.S. Patents Covering JAK Inhibitors for Treating Hair Loss Disorders

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Issuance of U.S. Patent No. 9,737,469 and U.S. Patent No. 9,730,877 Further Bolsters Aclaris' Intellectual Patent Portfolio

MALVERN, Pa., Sept. 05, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aclaris Therapeutics, Inc. (NASDAQ:ACRS), a dermatologist-led biopharmaceutical company focused on identifying, developing and commercializing innovative and differentiated therapies to address significant unmet needs in medical and aesthetic dermatology, today announced that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has issued U.S. Patent No. 9,737,469 and U.S. Patent No. 9,730,877, which are directed to methods related to the use and administration of certain janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors for treating hair loss disorders.

U.S. Patent No. 9,730,877 covers the use of various JAK inhibitors, including tofacitinib, baricitinib, ruxolitinib and decernotinib, to treat androgenetic alopecia, also known as male/female pattern hair loss. Experienced by 70% of men and 40% of women at some point in their lives, androgenetic alopecia is a genetic disorder and the most common cause of hair loss. The '877 Patent contains 22 claims and expires in November 2031.

U.S. Patent No. 9,737,469 covers the use of baricitinib for inducing hair growth and for treating hair loss disorders such as alopecia areata and androgenetic alopecia. Additional issued claims pertain to methods of using baricitinib to treat particular phenotypes of alopecia areata, as well as to treat other hair loss disorders. The '469 Patent contains 10 claims and expires in November 2031.

These newly allowed patents are owned by The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York and exclusively licensed to Aclaris, and are the latest U.S. patents to issue in connection with Aclaris' JAK drug development program for hair loss disorders.

"We are extremely pleased with the continued development of the patent portfolio we exclusively licensed from Columbia. These new issuances continue to expand the breadth and depth of our JAK inhibitor intellectual property portfolio covering methods of use for certain JAK inhibitors for the treatment of hair loss disorders. The issuance of these patents is another successful step in the development of a robust patent portfolio relating to JAK inhibition and hair loss," said Dr. Neal Walker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Aclaris.

Aclaris has exclusively licensed several patents and patent applications involving novel selective JAK 1/3 inhibitors, including a patent portfolio from Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. that covers Aclaris' product candidates ATI-50001 and ATI-50002, which are oral and topical formulations, respectively, also being developed as potential treatments for alopecia areata. Additionally, Aclaris has exclusively licensed a patent portfolio from Columbia University directed to methods of using JAK inhibitors for the treatment of alopecia areata, androgenetic alopecia, and other dermatological conditions. This portfolio includes the recently issued U.S. patents discussed above, as well as an issued U.S. patent directed to methods of treating alopecia areata, androgenetic alopecia and other hair loss disorders by administering ruxolitinib and issued patent claims in Japan directed to pharmaceutical compositions comprising ruxolitinib, baricitinib or other JAK inhibitors for use in treating alopecia areata, androgenetic alopecia and other hair loss disorders.

About Aclaris Therapeutics, Inc.

Aclaris Therapeutics, Inc. is a dermatologist-led biopharmaceutical company focused on identifying, developing and commercializing innovative and differentiated therapies to address significant unmet needs in medical and aesthetic dermatology. Aclaris is focused on large, underserved market segments with no FDA-approved medications or where treatment gaps exist. Aclaris is based in Malvern, Pennsylvania and more information can be found by visiting the Aclaris website at www.aclaristx.com.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Any statements contained in this press release that do not describe historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements may be identified by words such as "believe", "expect", "may", "plan," "potential," "will," and similar expressions, and are based on Aclaris' current beliefs and expectations. These forward-looking statements include expectations regarding the development of Aclaris' product candidates focused on JAK inhibition for the treatment of hair loss disorders, including Aclaris' intellectual property strategy. These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those reflected in such statements. Risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially include uncertainties inherent in the conduct of clinical trials, Aclaris' reliance on third parties over which it may not always have full control, risks associated with maintaining its intellectual property portfolio and other risks and uncertainties that are described in Aclaris' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, Aclaris' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017, and other filings Aclaris makes with the SEC from time to time. These documents are available under the "Financial Information" section of the Investors page of Aclaris' website at <http://www.aclaristx.com>. Any forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this press release and are based on information available to Aclaris as of the date of this release, and Aclaris assumes no obligation to, and does not intend to, update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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