

## NEWS RELEASE

### **THYMITAQ® COMPLETES ENROLLMENT IN PIVOTAL PHASE III LIVER CANCER STUDY**

*THYMITAQ® (nolatrexed dihydrochloride) may offer treatment option for patients with inoperable primary liver cancer*

**Berwyn, PA / April 19, 2005 / PR Newswire / --** Eximias Pharmaceutical Corporation (Eximias) announced today that it has completed enrollment in its pivotal Phase III clinical study with THYMITAQ® in patients with inoperable primary liver cancer (hepatoma, hepatocellular carcinoma or HCC). The Phase III study, coined the ETHECC® trial (Evaluation of THYMITAQ® in Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma), is comparing survival in a randomized trial of patients with inoperable primary liver cancer treated with THYMITAQ®, an investigational product, to patients treated with doxorubicin. There is no treatment approved by the United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) or the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) for hepatocellular carcinoma. The company believes this is the largest Phase III trial completed with unresectable liver cancer patients.

Dr. Robert Gish, Medical Director of the Liver Disease Management & Transplant Program at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco and Dr. Yehuda Patt, Professor of Medicine and Chief of GI Oncology at the University of New Mexico Cancer Center in Albuquerque, are the co-Principal Investigators for the ETHECC® trial.

“Cirrhosis precedes HCC in about 60-80% of all patients diagnosed with this cancer in the US. This coexisting cirrhosis makes treating liver cancer a major challenge for oncologists, hepatologists and liver surgeons,” said Dr. Gish. “Efforts have focused on the identification of chemotherapy agents that can be tolerated even by patients with compromised liver function.”

“We are eagerly awaiting the results of this randomized study,” said Dr. Patt. “There is a need for treatments in patients with HCC.”

“Primary liver cancer has no approved treatment in the United States, and patients who are unable to receive surgical treatment for this rapidly fatal disease are in need of a viable treatment option. Now that enrollment in the ETHECC® trial is complete, we will conclude the required monitoring of the patients and then carry out the analysis,” said President and Chief Executive Officer Gail Schulze. “This also marks a significant milestone for the company. This milestone is made possible due to the commitment of the patients, the dedicated work of our investigators and their staffs, and our employees.”

Eximias initiated the ETHECC® trial in late 2000. Approximately 60 centers in the United States, Canada, Europe and South Africa have participated in the study. THYMITAQ® has been granted both Fast-Track and Orphan Drug status for HCC in the United States and Orphan Medicinal Product status in the European Union.

#### **About THYMITAQ® (nolatrexed dihydrochloride)**

THYMITAQ®, an investigational product, is a novel, non-competitive, high-affinity antifolate that inhibits Thymidylate Synthase (TS) and disrupts DNA replication, thereby killing tumor cells. THYMITAQ® is one of the first molecularly targeted products, using a high-resolution crystal structure of the TS target and molecular modeling techniques to design a product that may overcome some of the known resistance mechanisms of

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classical antifolates and multi-targeted antifolates. THYMITAQ® is a registered trademark of Eximias Pharmaceutical Corporation.

### **About Hepatocellular Carcinoma (also known as HCC or primary liver cancer)**

According to the American Cancer Society, nearly 18,000 Americans will be diagnosed with liver cancer in 2005. The incidence is expected to increase in the United States in the next decade due to the evolution of Hepatitis C and cirrhosis, as well as the increasing prevalence of Hepatitis B, which are possible contributing factors in patients diagnosed with liver cancer. HCC is even more common outside of the United States, with more than 500,000 people worldwide afflicted with this form of cancer, with Hepatitis B being the most common cause of HCC worldwide.

### **About Eximias**

Eximias Pharmaceutical Corporation is a privately-held pharmaceutical company that engages in the acquisition, development and commercialization of products for the treatment of cancer and cancer-related disorders. The company's current portfolio includes two therapeutic products: THYMITAQ® (nolatrexed dihydrochloride) and ORATAQ™ (an oral form of nolatrexed dihydrochloride). For more information about Eximias, visit [www.eximiaspharm.com](http://www.eximiaspharm.com).

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