ALGERNON BEGINS SCREENING PATIENTS FOR
PHASE 2 IFENPRODIL IPF AND CHRONIC COUGH HUMAN STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, July 07, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Algernon Pharmaceuticals Inc. (CSE: AGN) (FRANKFURT: AGW) (OTCQB: AGNPF) (the "**Company**" or "**Algernon**") a clinical stage pharmaceutical development company, is pleased to announce that it has begun screening patients for suitability for enrolment in its Phase 2 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and chronic cough clinical study of its re-purposed drug NP-120 (Ifenprodil). Ifenprodil is an NMDA receptor antagonist specifically targeting the NMDA-type subunit 2B.

There are 5 sites in total participating in the study with 3 located in Australia and 2 in New Zealand. All 5 sites have now received ethics approval and all have successfully completed their site initiation.

The Company originally decided to investigate Ifenprodil for both IPF and chronic cough after conducting several animal studies that showed the drug's superior activity when compared with current standard of care treatments and a leading Phase 3 drug.

IPF Animal Study Summary

Ifenprodil showed superiority in reducing fibrosis over two globally approved therapies for IPF, Roche's Pirfenidone and Boehringer Ingelheim's Nintedanib, in a well-established *in vivo* animal model study.

Data from this study showed a 56.0% reduction in fibrosis vs untreated controls (p=0.015) in a 21-day bleomycin mouse model (treatment began on Day 7).

Chronic Cough Animal Study Summary

Ifenprodil outperformed Merck's Phase 3 Drug MK-7264 (Gefapixant) in an Acute Cough Study by 110%, in a well-accepted acute cough *in-vivo* animal study. Pharmidex, a contract research organization (CRO) and a global leader in respiratory research conducted the cough study using the guinea pig citric acid challenge model. It should also be noted that unlike Gefapixant, Ifenprodil has no known taste disturbance.

"There has been a significant amount of news flow recently related to our Ifenprodil COVID clinical trial program," said Christopher J. Moreau, CEO of Algernon Pharmaceuticals. "However, while this is still an important focus for the company, this is a very appropriate time to remind

our shareholders that Ifenprodil was initially selected for advancement into a human clinical trial based on its strong animal data for IPF and chronic cough. These are also important areas with significant unmet clinical needs. We look forward to updating the market when our first patient has been enrolled."

About NP-120 (Ifenprodil)

NP-120 (Ifenprodil) is an N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist specifically targeting the NMDA-type subunit 2B (Glu2NB). Ifenprodil prevents glutamate signalling. The NMDA receptor is found on many tissues including lung cells and T-cells, neutrophils.

About Algernon Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Algernon is a drug re-purposing company that investigates safe, already approved drugs for new disease applications, moving them efficiently and safely into new human trials, developing new formulations and seeking new regulatory approvals in global markets. Algernon specifically investigates compounds that have never been approved in the U.S. or Europe to avoid off label prescription writing.

Algernon has filed new intellectual property rights globally for NP-120 (Ifenprodil) for the treatment of respiratory diseases and is working to develop a proprietary injectable and slow release formulation.

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