Press Cutting

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Hutchison China Meditech Starts HMPL-004 Ph IIB Trial

LONDON (Dow Jones) -- **Hutchison China Meditech** said Friday its wholly-owned drug R&D subsidiary, Hutchison MediPharma, has enrolled the first patient into its global Phase IIb trial programme assessing HMPL-004 in patients with mild-to-moderate ulcerative colitis.

The trial programme has been designed to further test the drug candidate's efficacy, assess its safety profile in a broader patient population and to evaluate different dose regimens in preparation for the Phase III trials with HMPL-004.

The global Phase IIb UC trial will be conducted in 50 clinical study centres worldwide including sites in North America and Europe.

The trial will recruit 210 patients with active mild-to-moderate UC.

The primary endpoint of the trial is to assess the efficacy of HMPL-004 as compared with the placebo after eight weeks treatment.

It is anticipated that patient recruitment in this global clinical trial will be completed by third quarter 2009.

HMPL-004, the leading candidate of Chi-Med's drug pipeline for treating inflammatory bowel disease, is also being assessed as a potential treatment for Crohn's Disease. The product candidate is in a Phase II clinical trial in the U.S. which is actively recruiting patients and Chi-Med anticipates the completion of patient recruitment for this CD study by the end of 2008.

HMPL-004 is an orally active, proprietary botanical product that acts on multiple targets in the pathogenesis of inflammation. It is a compound extracted from a Chinese herb. [29-02-08 0903GMT]