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Hutchison MediPharma announces completion of Phase IIb trial for HMPL-004 in ulcerative colitis

6 November 2009 - China-based biotechnology company Hutchison MediPharma Limited, the wholly-owned drug subsidiary of **Hutchison China MediTech** Limited (Chi-Med) (LON: HCM), announced yesterday the completion of its 223-patient global Phase IIb clinical trial of HMPL-004 in patients with mild-to-moderate active ulcerative colitis (UC), a form of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

The Phase IIb UC trial was a multi-centre, double-blind, randomised and placebo-controlled study conducted in 223 UC patients in USA, Canada and Europe. The three-armed clinical trial included 8 weeks treatment of HMPL-004 at two dose levels, 1200 mg/day or 1800 mg/day, vs. placebo.

Top-line data analysis demonstrated that the trial clearly succeeded in meeting its primary efficacy endpoint of clinical response with a decrease in rectal bleeding. It also met its key secondary endpoints in relation to clinical remission and mucosal healing.

Samantha Du, chief scientific officer of Chi-Med and chief executive officer of Hutchison MediPharma, said that the company is very encouraged by these results. HMPL-004 is an innovative oral botanical drug with unique mechanism of action targeting NF-kB activation, which leads to inhibition of production of multiple pro-inflammatory cytokines. As such, HMPL-004 represents a new approach for the treatment of active IBD patients, Du added.