

Flexing Our Muscle



The phrase “Flexing Our Muscle” carries with it dual meanings at Cytokinetics.

Firstly, it speaks to the evolution of our R&D strategy focused primarily on muscle contractility that is evidenced by our more mature programs transitioning from early clinical development towards later-stage development. We believe that our drug candidates, that have demonstrated potentially clinically relevant pharmacodynamic effects and have been well-tolerated in patients, are well-positioned to advance to the next stage of pharmaceutical testing. We now intend to answer key questions about the potential clinical benefits of these compounds in patients confronting grievous illnesses.

Secondly, this phrase serves as a rallying cry for our dedicated employees, whose passion and commitment are essential to enabling Cytokinetics to deliver on the promise our programs may offer to patients and their families. We take pride in Cytokinetics’ first-in-class innovation and boldly embrace the challenges inherent in tackling some of the toughest medical problems. In the last year, we again demonstrated that we are up to the task in front of us and delivered.

In 2010, we again leveraged our proprietary expertise to bridge insights garnered from our cardiac muscle contractility program to benefit our other programs directed to each of skeletal and smooth muscle contractility. Moreover, we continued to ensure alignment between scientific rigor and integrated clinical and commercial therapeutic hypotheses.

In the past year, we collaborated with Amgen to lay the groundwork for the initiation of the next phase of development for *omecactiv mecarbil*, our novel cardiac myosin activator, now poised to enter Phase IIb evaluation in hospitalized patients with acute heart failure. We also agreed on a revised joint research plan under which Amgen and Cytokinetics will conduct collaborative research on next-generation compounds in our cardiac muscle contractility program. We are pleased to take these steps forward together and believe that our collaboration may result in a major leap forward in the treatment of heart failure, which currently remains an area of considerable unmet medical need for an aging population and one of the foremost drivers of increased healthcare costs.

In 2010, we invested in the progression of our skeletal muscle program and our lead drug candidate CK-2017357, a fast skeletal muscle troponin activator. We believe that this compound has the potential to demonstrate symptomatic relief and therapeutic benefit in the form of improved quality of life and potential disease modifying effects across a range of neuromuscular disorders and conditions associated with muscle loss and impairment. In the last year, we executed on a series of hypothesis-generating Phase IIa Evidence of Effect trials. Our first trial in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, was successfully completed and the reported results were embraced by patients and clinicians who confront this very debilitating and uniformly fatal disease. The data from this trial suggested that a single dose of CK-2017357 demonstrated evidence of potentially clinically relevant effects in patients suffering from ALS. In 2011, we look forward to furthering the development of CK-2017357, as it may offer hope for ALS patients. At the same time, we look forward to results in 2011 from our other ongoing clinical trials of CK-2017357, one in claudication, or the intermittent pain that is often associated with peripheral artery disease, and one in myasthenia gravis, another neuromuscular condition seriously underserved by currently available treatments.

In the last year, we also realized returns from our further investments in research. For example, we plan on filing an investigational new drug (IND) application in 2011 for a second skeletal muscle activator, CK-2066260, and are readying to conduct a Phase I study for this potential drug candidate. We also continued our research and preclinical development of our smooth muscle contractility program in which our more optimized compounds appear especially promising for the possible treatment of bronchoconstriction associated with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

All in all, 2010 was another very productive year for Cytokinetics. In much the same way, 2011 holds promise for building on our notable achievements. Diligently advancing our pipeline of novel drug candidates will enhance the value of the company for all of our stakeholders. We pledge to uphold that same continued commitment going forward in the interests of both good science and good business. That is ultimately what matters most to us at Cytokinetics and also serves to guide our activities as we continue to Flex our Muscle.

Robert I. Blum
President and Chief Executive Officer

