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Q&A with Dr. Ish Khanna, CEO and Co-Founder of NeuroPn Therapeutics developing a Non-Opioid, Safer, Potential Disease Modifying Therapeutics for Painful Peripheral Neuropathy

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CEOCFO: ***Dr. Khanna, what is the vision behind NeuroPn Therapeutics?***
Dr. Khanna: The vision of NeuroPn Therapeutics is to create innovative and safer therapeutics for pain associated with nerve damage (peripheral neuropathic pain) caused by conditions such as diabetes and chemotherapy. We also envision that our drug discovery approach would offer a disease modifying therapy (*i.e.* prevent nerve damage and promote nerve healing) for neurodegenerative diseases

CEOCFO: ***Would you tell us about what we know peripheral neuropathic pain?***
Dr. Khanna: Peripheral neuropathic pain is a neurological disorder that affects over 16 million Americans and is causally linked to a number of diseases including diabetes, cancer, shingles, and infections such as HIV, chronic back pain, stroke, and multiple sclerosis. Peripheral neuropathy remains hugely unmet need with millions of patients suffering around the globe. The drugs in the market, which include antidepressants (tricyclics), serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (duloxetine), anticonvulsants (gabapentin, pregabalin) and opioids offer non-optimal efficacy and dose-limiting adverse effects. For example, studies on key drugs in the market indicate that over 80% patients do not accomplish clinically significant efficacy, and the adverse effects particularly the CNS effects limit utility of these drugs on chronic or high dose use. There is an urgent need for novel therapeutics that are more efficacious, safer and better tolerated.

CEOCFO: ***What is the approach at NeuroPn Therapeutics?***
Dr. Khanna: NeuroPn is developing novel inhibitors of an enzyme that stimulate endogenous pathways to control inflammation and pain and promote nerve healing. We hypothesize; this multimodal approach can offer novel agents with expanded efficacy and superior CNS safety *vs*. the marketed drugs. Based on the work done by us and others in the field, we also anticipate the approach to offer neuroprotection and potential disease modification strategy to treat painful peripheral neuropathy

CEOCFO: ***What have you found so far?***
Dr. Khanna: NeuroPn has identified a series of novel, orally active, potent enzyme inhibitors with efficacy in animal models of acute and chronic peripheral neuropathic pain. In animal models of nerve injury, NeuroPn compounds prevent neuronal damage and promote nerve healing. Unlike opioids and other centrally acting agents, NeuroPn treatment is not associated with narcotic and other CNS adverse effects. NeuroPn approach has also demonstrated therapeutic utility in Parkinson's disease. We have filed provisional patent application protecting composition of matter.