July 7, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Kiichiro Kawada
RaQualia Pharma Inc.
Phone: +81-52-446-6100
E-mail: ir@raqualia.com

Sodium Channel Blocker Patent Allowance in Europe

July 7, 2016 - RaQualia Pharma Inc. (JASDAQ Code: 4579; RaQualia) today announced that the company received an allowance* for a sodium channel blocker substance patent in Europe (Application Number: 11834032.2, Arylamide derivatives). This allowance ensures that the company's intellectual property rights will be strengthened in Japan, USA and Korea, following the previously-granted patent in Europe.

These sodium channel blockers showed significant analgesic effects on several animal models for pain. They are highly selective to tetrodotoxin-sensitivity (TTX-S) sodium channels over TTX-resistant (TTX-R) sodium channels which have vital roles in heart. These compounds are expected to provide new treatment options for various pain conditions with fewer side effects.

As one of our core programs, the sodium channel blocker was generated from RaQualia's integrated discovery research using its expertise on ion channel assessment and long years' experience on pain research. RaQualia will continue efforts on ion channel discovery research to fulfill unmet medical needs, and bolster its portfolio management of intellectual properties.

The financial forecasts for FY2016 (January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016) will not be affected by this announcement.

<Sodium Channel>
Sodium channel, one of ion channels that exist in excitable cell membranes such as muscle cells and neurons, conducts sodium ions through a cell's plasma membrane in response to change in potential. The opening of sodium channel triggers action potentials, which lead to pain transmission in sensory nerves. Nine functional members (Nav1.1 – Nav1.9) of sodium channel family have been identified to date. They have been classified based on their sensitivity to tetrodotoxin (TTX) as TTX-sensitive (TTX-S) and TTX-resistant (TTX-R) channels. Blocking TTX-S channel is considered an effective approach to pain treatment.

*A patent allowance is an evaluation by a country's patent office that a patent application merits being granted a patent. After the patent is allowed and the fee paid, it is registered and the patent is issued in the relevant country.

Contact:
E-mail address: ir@raqualia.com
URL: www.raqualia.com

####