

INDENA SPONSORS ITALIAN RESEARCHERS' PARTICIPATION IN THE 2nd ITALIAN-JAPANESE SYMPOSIUM OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Kyoto will be the setting for this year's JISOC from November 28th - 30th, 2001

Kyoto, November 28th 2001 - The second edition of the Italian-Japanese Symposium of Organic Chemistry will focus on new trends in organic synthesis and organic chemistry for life science. Indena will contribute to the event with a lecture on "*Semi-synthesis of biologically active taxanes*" by Ezio Bombardelli, President of Indena's Scientific Board. Another aspect of Indena's involvement in the event is the sponsorship benefiting a group of young Italian researchers who will participate in symposium workshops, gaining valuable scientific experience.

The first JISOC was held in 1999 in Naples with the participation of distinguished organic chemists from both countries. The objective of this year's edition is to overview ongoing developments in organic chemistry both in Italy and Japan, and to stimulate co-operation between the two countries for further research.

This year, the symposium will be part of the framework of "*Italy in Japan 2001*", the biggest event ever organised for the promotion of Italy abroad. "*Italy in Japan 2001*" endeavours to emphasise quality in Italian industry and technology, sectors in which Indena has always played a key role.

From new materials to new medicinal agents, the central role of organic chemistry has been expanding, driven by remarkable improvements in the understanding of factors governing organic reactions and by increasingly powerful instrumentation.

TOWARDS MORE TOLERABLE CHEMOTHERAPY, WITH A NEW TAXANE MOLECULE

Presented in the USA an Italian study conducted by Indena and the Mario Negri Institute

Milan, July 17, 2001 - Pre-clinical tests have shown that a new taxane skeleton molecule, IDN 5390, presents low toxicity, a selective activity in angiogenesis and can be administered orally.

Due to its anti-angiogenetic and anti-metastatic properties, the new seco-derivative can be considered the prototype of a new class of antitumoural molecules modified and derived from the yew tree. The study has been presented at the annual congress of the American Association for Cancer Research. The Italian company Indena, a world leader dedicated to the identification, development and production of active principles derived from plants for the pharmaceutical industry, conducted the study in collaboration with the Mario Negri Institute in Bergamo.

"The results we have achieved thus far are promising", explains Ezio Bombardelli, President of Indena's Scientific Board. He added "this novel compound of vegetable origin could provide patients with a more tolerable form of chemotherapy treatment - less invasive and more efficient."

IDN 5390 is powerful in inhibiting the migration of endothelial cells in correlation with the doses administered without interfering in the proliferation of the cells themselves. IDN 5390 gave no evident signs of toxicity in the treated animals.

The anti-neoplastic activity of this new seco-derivative was tested *in vivo* on mice with metastatic melanoma and treatment of the tumor with IDN 5390 caused the reduction in size of spontaneous metastases in the lung. IDN 5390 also delayed the growth of the primary tumor.

The study, which began in 1999, is a new goal reached by the Indena research team in areas of Oncology therapies. This latest taxane discovery follows last year's licensing agreement with Bayer for taxane molecule IDN 5109 and Indena's industrial production of Paclitaxel, one of today's most widely used principles in chemotherapy.

"These impressive results further demonstrate the true potential of phyto-chemical based research for the development of drugs on a global scale", emphasized Bombardelli.