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JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT

Major Step Forward in Accessing New Life-Extending Medication for Advanced Metastatic Lung, Melanoma and Kidney Cancer Patients.

pCPA negotiations concluded. Provinces and Territories encouraged to quickly list.

TORONTO February 13, 2017 - Canadian lung, melanoma and kidney cancer patients are one step closer to gaining access to immunotherapy after the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) announced it had reached a pricing agreement with Bristol Myers-Squibb for nivolumab (OPDIVO®). This represents a major milestone to getting nivolumab publicly covered and listed on provincial formularies for patients with metastatic melanoma, locally advanced or metastatic pre-treated non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and advanced or metastatic pre-treated renal cell carcinoma (RCC).

“Cancer is one of the top killers of Canadians annually, and making new medicines available to Canadian cancer patients is a vital part of raising the standard of care.” said Dr Paul Wheatley-Price, Medical Oncologist at the Ottawa Hospital and President of Lung Cancer Canada. “In addition to providing significant clinical effectiveness, the lower toxicity of novel immuno-oncology treatments like nivolumab, help cancer patients to have improvements in both quality and quantity of life.”

Together lung, melanoma and kidney cancer represent more than 20% of the new cancer cases every year and more than 30% of the cancer deaths. In 2016 it was estimated that:

- 28,400 Canadians were diagnosed with lung cancer and 20,800 Canadians died from it
- 6,800 Canadians were diagnosed with melanoma and 1,200 Canadians died from it
- 6,400 Canadians were diagnosed with kidney cancer and 1,850 Canadians died from it

“Immuno-oncology is truly a major step forward in the treatment of cancer. Patients that respond to this therapy not only live longer, they live better. With an improved quality of life, they are able to spend quality time with family and loved ones, care for their families and not just be cared for, return to work, provide and plan,” says Andrew Weller, Board Chair of Kidney Cancer Canada. “Immunotherapy is truly hope realized. We applaud this announcement as pCPA is one of the last steps to getting access to this life extending medication for patients across the country”,

adds Annette Cyr, Board Chair of the Melanoma Network of Canada and three-time survivor of melanoma.

pCPA is the third step in Canada's approval and regulatory framework to public coverage and listing in provincial formularies. It follows behind Health Canada approval of the drug, and a positive recommendation by the pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR). All provinces, territories and administrators of federal healthcare signed the pCPA Letter of Intent for nivolumab, signalling their acceptance of the price and willingness to list it on their provincial formularies for public coverage.

"We encourage all provinces and territories to quickly list nivolumab as significant time has already passed between Health Canada approval and this pCPA agreement", says Kathy Bernard, President of the Save Your Skin Foundation and ten year melanoma survivor. Nivolumab received Health Canada approval March 1, 2016 for the treatment of advanced metastatic NSCLC, April 25, 2016 for metastatic renal cell carcinoma and October 26, 2016 for metastatic melanoma]. "Yukon is the first to list all three indications on their public formulary - adding it one day after the agreement was reached. Other provinces have also announced funding for some of the indications. However past experience has shown us that there can be quite a delay, sometimes even a year or more, between the conclusion of the pCPA negotiations and listing in all provinces. Months, weeks and days can mean the difference between life and death, and cancer patients do not have time to wait."

About Kidney Cancer Canada

Kidney Cancer Canada is the only national Canadian health charity dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by kidney cancer. Kidney Cancer Canada was formed in 2006 by patients, for patients. We work closely with leading Canadian and International experts, health providers, doctors and patients to: provide information and support, advocate for access to quality care and necessary treatments, and promote and support vital research that will help prevent and treat kidney cancer.

About Lung Cancer Canada

Lung Cancer Canada (LCC) is Canada's only national charitable organization that is solely focused on lung cancer. Lung Cancer Canada serves as Canada's leading resource for lung cancer education, patient support, research, and advocacy. LCC's mission is four-fold: 1) to increase public awareness of lung cancer, 2) to support and advocate for lung cancer patients and their families, 3) to provide educational resources to patients, family members, healthcare professionals, and the general public, and 4) to raise funds in support of promising research opportunities.

About Melanoma Network of Canada

The Melanoma Network of Canada (MNC) provides support services, information and programs for individuals whose lives have been changed by melanoma. MNC provides the leading national voice for melanoma patients in Canada for better early detection and improved treatment access, and works diligently to prevent more Canadians from developing melanoma through public awareness and youth and adult education on sun safety. For more information, please visit www.melanomanetwork.ca.

About Save Your Skin Foundation

The Save Your Skin Foundation is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to skin cancer. The foundation focuses primarily on providing support to patients dealing with melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, to advocating for and on behalf of patients for access to equal, timely, appropriate and affordable treatments and education and ongoing awareness about skin cancer.

For more information:

Kidney Cancer Canada
Heather Chappell
P: 416.603.0277 Ext. 5
heatherchappell@kidneycancercanada.ca
<http://www.kidneycancercanada.ca/>

Lung Cancer Canada
Christina Sit
P: 416.785.3439
christina@lungcancercanada.ca
www.lungcancercanada.ca

Melanoma Network of Canada
Maureen Grice
P: 1.877.560.8035
mgrice@melanomanetwork.ca
www.Melanomanetwork.ca

Save Your Skin Foundation
Sabrina Hanna
P: 514.972.0031
sabrina@saveyourskin.ca
www.saveyourskin.ca