Sixth Element Capital welcomes Sierra Oncology's update on SRA737

Sierra Oncology, Inc. (Nasdaq: SRRA), a clinical stage drug development company focused on advancing next generation DNA Damage Response (DDR) therapeutics for the treatment of patients with cancer, to whom CPF licensed SRA737 in September 2016, has reported significant progress in the development of the project.

Ongoing SRA737 clinical studies will be expanded to target aggregate enrollment of 200 patients across ten cancer indications adding new SRA737 monotherapy cohort for CCNE1-driven ovarian cancer.

Sierra announced noteworthy progress in the Dose Escalation Phase 1 portions for both of its ongoing Phase 1/2 clinical trials evaluating its potential best-in-class Chk1 inhibitor, SRA737. The company announced expansion of the efficacy-oriented Phase 2 portions of both trials, which will now target aggregate enrollment of approximately 200 patients across ten cancer indications. The company also announced it is planning to initiate a Phase 1b/2 clinical trial in the fourth quarter of 2018 that will evaluate SRA737 in combination with ZEJULA® (niraparib) for the treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC).

Dr. Nick Glover, President and CEO of Sierra Oncology commented: "We are pleased to report encouraging progress in the advancement of both of our next generation DDR assets. In particular, SRA737 has demonstrated an emerging preclinical and clinical profile which appears competitively differentiated in comparison to other clinical stage Chk1 inhibitors, which gives us confidence to significantly expand its development program both as monotherapy and in a variety of combination settings. In support of this expansion, we are adding further clinical centers in 2018, with the goal of reporting preliminary clinical data in the fourth quarter of 2018."

"The safety profile for SRA737 has been highly promising, both as monotherapy and in combination with low dose gemcitabine. These observations are entirely consistent with the asset's mechanism-of-action and preclinical toxicology data, supporting a broad potential therapeutic window for SRA737," Dr. Barbara Klencke, Chief Development Officer, Sierra Oncology. "The Phase 2 efficacy-oriented portion of the monotherapy trial is also underway and focuses on cancers that are driven by genetic mutations that result in high replication stress, which have been associated with synthetic lethality to Chk1 inhibition."

"Given our continued understanding of Chk1 biology, we are also adding a CCNE1-driven ovarian cancer cohort to the monotherapy study," added Dr. Mark Kowalski, Chief Medical Officer, Sierra Oncology. "Women with tumors harboring this genetic profile have limited therapeutic options; they typically become resistant to platinum-based chemotherapy and do not commonly harbor mutations in BRCA1/2 genes. However, given the key role of CCNE1 in driving replication stress, SRA737 may be effective in these tumor types. We are encouraged by preclinical data we have generated that reinforce this potential utility."