

## INFORMATION LETTER

# YAKULT, OUR PARTNER IN JAPAN, ANNOUNCED THE APPROVAL OF ELPAT IN GASTRIC CANCER

JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 2015

### FACTS

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In March 2015, Yakult Honsha, our commercial partner in Japan, announced the approval of a new indication for Elplat<sup>®</sup> (oxaliplatin). Patients with “unresectable advanced or recurrent gastric cancer” are now benefiting from Elplat<sup>®</sup>. This adds another indication to the list of approved indications for oxaliplatin which include colorectal, pancreatic, and liver cancer.

### ABOUT GASTRIC CANCER

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Gastric cancer (cancer of the stomach) is the third most common cause of cancer-related death in the world<sup>1</sup>, and it remains difficult to cure in Western countries, primarily because most patients are not diagnosed early enough and present with advanced disease. The bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* is an important cause of distal stomach cancers. Epstein-Barr virus also is carcinogenic to humans and has been linked to stomach cancers in some studies. Recent statistics show that the Republic of Korea had the highest rate of stomach cancer (41.8 per 100'000 age standardized), followed by Mongolia (32.5) and Japan (29.9)<sup>2</sup>. In the United States, stomach malignancy is currently the 15<sup>th</sup> most common cancer<sup>3</sup>.

The stomach begins at the gastroesophageal junction and ends at the duodenum.

### ABOUT ELPLAT

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Oxaliplatin is a diaminocyclohexane (DACH) platin which is a chemotherapeutic agent developed by Debiopharm for the treatment of various cancers. It is the active substance of the branded products Eloxatin<sup>®</sup>/Elplat<sup>®</sup>/Dacotin<sup>®</sup>/Dacplat<sup>®</sup>, which have dramatically changed the prognosis of colorectal cancer. The drug is now approved in several additional cancer indications worldwide (pancreatic, liver, gastric).

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Cancer: Fact Sheet No 297. WHO. Available at <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs297/en/>. Accessed June 1st, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> World Cancer Research Fund. <http://www.wcrf.org/int/cancer-facts-figures/data-specific-cancers/stomach-cancer-statistics>. Accessed June 1st 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program. SEER Stat Fact Sheets: Stomach Cancer. National Cancer Institute. Available at <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/stomach.html>. Accessed June 1st, 2015.

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