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EPICEPT FILES PROTOCOL WITH FDA FOR CEPLENE® PHASE III CONFIRMATORY TRIAL

SPECIAL PROTOCOL ASSESSMENT WILL FACILITATE NDA SUBMISSION

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. (May 9, 2011) – EpiCept Corporation (Nasdaq and Nasdaq OMX Stockholm: EPCT) announced today that it has filed a protocol for a Phase III confirmatory clinical trial for Ceplene® (histamine dihydrochloride) with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The protocol will be reviewed under the FDA's Special Protocol Assessment (SPA) program under which the FDA will provide formal guidance regarding the trial's design, clinical endpoints, statistical analysis and labeling claims. EpiCept expects to receive initial comments from the FDA within the next 45 days, and to reach an agreement with the FDA on all major protocol elements later this year. Ceplene is EpiCept's maintenance therapy for patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in first remission and is currently approved in the European Union and Israel.

As part of this submission, EpiCept has proposed a two-arm trial comparing the efficacy of maintenance therapy with Ceplene in conjunction with low-dose interleukin-2 (IL-2) to investigator's choice, which is often no treatment. The target population is AML patients in first complete remission (CR1) who have received consolidation therapy. The primary endpoint will be overall survival. In the proposed protocol, patients in the control arm may, at the discretion of the study investigator, be offered some form of maintenance therapy. EpiCept believes that offering patients in the control arm the possibility of alternative medical interventions should benefit patient recruitment and enrollment although most patients are expected to receive no therapy, which is the current standard of care.

The proposed study design is based on input and guidance EpiCept received from the FDA during a meeting in October 2010. In addition, to ensure that the study design was both clinically rigorous and feasible from an enrollment standpoint, EpiCept worked closely with key opinion leaders to develop the protocol. The Company plans to provide more detailed information regarding the protocol design upon securing agreement with the FDA.

Key differences in this proposed study from the earlier pivotal study of Ceplene/IL-2 conducted by the Company are:

- Only CR1 patients will be enrolled;
- Overall survival instead of leukemia free survival will be the primary endpoint;
- Pre-specified intervals for bone marrow examinations will more closely track relapse as a secondary endpoint in the trial;
- Patients will be randomized into the trial earlier following hematologic recovery than the previous trial; and
- More intensive consolidation therapy will be required.

EpiCept expects that these changes will likely lead to a favorable outcome in the trial, assuming FDA agreement with these criteria.

The Company believes the results of this Phase III study, if positive, will provide the basis for the filing of a New Drug Application for Ceplene in the U.S.

About Ceplene®

Ceplene® is approved in the European Union and Israel and is indicated for remission maintenance therapy and prevention of relapse in adult patients with AML, one of four types of leukemia. Ceplene® is used together with low-dose IL-2. The prevalence for AML in the EU is about 41,000 patients and more than 16,000 new cases are diagnosed every year. While current induction and consolidation treatments are successful in inducing complete remission for the majority of AML patients, this remission is generally short-lived. After achieving complete remission most patients will suffer a relapse within one year. In an international, multicenter, open-label, randomized Phase III study, Ceplene® met its primary endpoint of prolonging leukemia-free survival for AML patients in first remission. The difference between the treated and control group was highly statistically significant ($p<0.008$). Recently completed subset analyses of patients in the Phase III trial determined that patients with AML of monocyte origin achieved a statistically significant increase in overall survival after treatment with Ceplene® plus low-dose IL-2 and identified a strong correlation between the administration of high-intensity consolidation treatment and improvements in overall survival, suggesting that statistically significant improved overall survival could be achieved in a well designed and adequately powered clinical trial.

About EpiCept Corporation

EpiCept is focused on the development and commercialization of pharmaceutical products for the treatment of cancer and pain. The Company's lead product is Ceplene®, approved in the European Union and several other countries for the remission maintenance and prevention of relapse in adult patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) in first remission. In the United States, the Phase III pivotal trial is scheduled to commence in 2011. The Company has two other oncology drug candidates currently in clinical development that were discovered using in-house technology and have been shown to act as vascular disruption agents in a variety of solid tumors. The Company's pain portfolio includes AmiKet™ (formerly known as EpiCept™ NP-1), a prescription topical analgesic cream in late-stage clinical development designed to provide effective long-term relief of pain associated with peripheral neuropathies.

Forward-Looking Statements

This news release and any oral statements made with respect to the information contained in this news release contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements include statements that express plans, anticipation, intent, contingency, goals, targets, future development and are otherwise not

statements of historical fact. These statements are based on our current expectations and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results or developments to be materially different from historical results or from any future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause actual results or developments to differ materially include: the risk that our securities may be delisted from The Nasdaq Capital Market; the risks associated with the adequacy of our existing cash resources and our ability to continue as a going concern, the risks associated with our ability to continue to meet our obligations under our existing debt agreements, the risk that Ceplene® will not receive regulatory approval or marketing authorization in the United States, the risk that Ceplene® will not achieve significant commercial success, the risk that any required post-approval clinical study for Ceplene® will not be successful, the risk that we will not be able to maintain our final regulatory approval or marketing authorization for Ceplene®, the risk that future financing will not successfully close or that the proceeds thereof will be materially less than anticipated, the risk that Azixa™ will not receive regulatory approval or achieve significant commercial success, the risk that we will not receive any significant payments under our agreement with Myrexis, the risk that the development of our other apoptosis product candidates will not be successful, the risk that clinical trials for AmiKet™ or crolibulin™ will not be successful, the risk that AmiKet™ or crolibulin™ will not receive regulatory approval or achieve significant commercial success, the risk that we will not be able to find a partner to help conduct the Phase III trials for AmiKet™ on attractive terms, a timely basis or at all, the risk that our other product candidates that appeared promising in early research and clinical trials do not demonstrate safety and/or efficacy in larger-scale or later stage clinical trials, the risk that we will not obtain approval to market any of our product candidates, the risks associated with dependence upon key personnel, the risks associated with reliance on collaborative partners and others for further clinical trials, development, manufacturing and commercialization of our product candidates; the cost, delays and uncertainties associated with our scientific research, product development, clinical trials and regulatory approval process; our history of operating losses since our inception; the highly competitive nature of our business; risks associated with litigation; and risks associated with our ability to protect our intellectual property. These factors and other material risks are more fully discussed in our periodic reports, including our reports on Forms 8-K, 10-Q and 10-K and other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. You are urged to carefully review and consider the disclosures found in our filings which are available at www.sec.gov or at www.epicept.com. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, any of which could turn out to be wrong due to inaccurate assumptions, unknown risks or uncertainties or other risk factors.

**Azixa is a registered trademark of Myrexis, Inc.*

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