



Health And Well-Being

New Help For Cancer Patients

(NAPSA)—Research reveals bad news, good news and better news when it comes to cancer.

The bad news is, cancer is still the second-leading cause of death in the United States and 1.4 million new cases are diagnosed every year. The good news is most people who have cancer will survive it; in fact, as of 1997, fewer Americans die of cancer every year than did the year before.

Better news for many cancer patients is that new and more effective treatments are available—and doctors have high hopes for several others currently in the pipeline.

One such drug that's now being tested is called Talotrexin or PT-523, developed by Hana Biosciences. Researchers say it's particularly promising for patients with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), other kinds of leukemia and certain solid tumors.

ALL starts from white blood cells in the bone marrow and quickly moves into the blood. It can then spread to other parts of the body, making it vulnerable to infection or easy bleeding. About 4,000 new cases occur a year, mostly in children. This form of cancer worsens quickly if not treated but it usually responds well to initial treatment. Adults have a 30 to 50 percent cure rate. The more potent the medication used against the cancer cells, the less that's needed and the easier it is on both patient and caregivers.

"Currently, there are no drugs specifically approved for adults with relapsed or refractory ALL. As such, ongoing efforts are needed to investigate new therapies in these patients for whom



Patients, their families and physicians are looking for better ways to treat cancer and America's biopharmaceutical research companies are responding.

current therapy is inadequate, as well as to incorporate active agents, into frontline therapy," says Francis Giles, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chairman, Section of Developmental Therapeutics, at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Compared to methotrexate, the medication commonly used now, Talotrexin is ten times more efficient at moving into cells, ten times better at sticking to its target and ten to a hundred times more efficacious in a wide variety of tumor cell lines.

Hana Biosciences, Inc. is a publicly-held biopharmaceutical company focused on advancing cancer care. It trades as HNAB.OB and additional information can be found at www.hanabiosciences.com.

Information on cancer statistics, treatment and research is at the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org.