Zealand doses the first patients with ZP1848 for short bowel syndrome, advancing the second of its proprietary specialty medicines into Phase II development in 2016

- ZP1848 is a long-acting GLP-2 analogue having shown attractive potential as a new therapy in short bowel syndrome, a specialty disease of high unmet medical needs
- Earlier in February, Zealand also advanced its glucagon analogue, ZP4207 for severe hypoglycemia in diabetes, into Phase II
- These recent advancements support Zealand’s strategic focus on growing its proprietary pipeline of peptide specialty medicines, of which now three are in Phase II development

*Copenhagen, 15 February 2016* – Zealand informs that it has successfully dosed the first patients in a clinical Phase II Proof-of-Concept trial with ZP1848 for the treatment of short bowel syndrome (SBS). SBS is a serious condition of intestinal function failure following surgical removal of large parts of the intestines due to cancer, ischemia or Crohn’s disease. ZP1848 is a novel, long-acting GLP-2 analogue with a unique stability profile in liquid formulation, which is invented and fully owned by Zealand.

GLP-2 based therapy is an established concept in the treatment of SBS, and in preclinical studies, ZP1848 has shown promising effects over existing treatment. The start of patient in the Phase II trial is an important step in the further development of ZP1848 in that the trial is intended to demonstrate the clinical relevance and profile of the product as a new and better treatment option.

ZP1848 is the second proprietary medicine Zealand has advanced into clinical Phase II development only in 2016. Earlier in February, Zealand informed (Press release no. 1 / 2016, 4 February 2016) that it had initiated dosing of patients in a Phase II trial with its stable glucagon analogue, ZP4207 for the single-dose rescue treatment of severe hypoglycemia in diabetes. In accordance with its strategic focus, Zealand has thus taken important steps in advancing its proprietary pipeline of peptide-based specialty medicines, which now counts three products in Phase II development.

**In a comment to this release, Britt Meelby Jensen, President and CEO at Zealand, said:**

“I consider ZP1848 an important and very promising product in Zealand’s growing proprietary pipeline of peptide medicines. Patients with short bowel syndrome have high mortality and severely reduced life quality, and we are eager with our Phase II trial to hopefully show support for the potential for this long acting GLP-2 as a new and better treatment for these patients.” She added: “This is the second proprietary product that we have advanced into Phase II development this month, showing clear progress in the execution of our strategy of growing Zealand’s proprietary pipeline of medicines for accelerated value creation. I am excited about these achievements and I look with strong confidence into 2016, where we expect more significant milestones for our company.”
The Phase II Proof-of-Concept trial with ZP1848 is a randomized, double-blind, dose-finding trial to investigate the clinical efficacy and safety of the compound in the treatment of SBS. The trial is conducted at the world-leading gastrointestinal center at the University Hospital of Copenhagen (Rigshospitalet), Denmark, and will enroll 18 patients with SBS. Patients in the trial will be randomized to three dosage groups and treated with two different doses of ZP1848 for a total of six weeks interrupted by a wash-out period. The primary objective of the trial is to assess the effect of ZP1848 on improving patients’ intestinal absorption capacity measured as reduction in fecal wet weight output. In addition, the trial will evaluate a number of relevant secondary efficacy endpoints, including change in urine weight and changes in absorption of electrolytes and macronutrients. Completion of and results from the Phase II trial are expected in 2017.

In preclinical studies, ZP1848 has shown to significantly increase small intestine mass compared to a marketed GLP-2 analogue. In addition, the compound has demonstrated important physio-chemical properties of a long-acting, stable and soluble peptide therapeutic, leaving potential for its convenient administration in readily available liquid formulation. Zealand has also investigated ZP1848 in a combined single and multiple ascending dose Phase I trial. Results from this trial demonstrated that ZP1848 is safe and well tolerated and has a supportive effect on bowel function.

For further information, please contact:
Britt Meelby Jensen, President and Chief Executive Officer
Tel: +45 51 67 61 28, email: bmj@zealandpharma.com

Hanne Leth Hillman, Senior Vice President, Investor Relations and Communications
Tel: +45 50 60 36 89, email: hlh@zealandpharma.com

About Short Bowel Syndrome
Short Bowel Syndrome (SBS) is a complex chronic disease characterized by severe loss of bowel function. SBS can result from either physical removal of portions of the small intestine and colon or from loss of function as a result of bowel damage. The primary underlying causes of SBS are colon cancer, ischemia, Crohn’s disease and radiation.

Patients with SBS have reduced intestinal absorption and suffer from inability to maintain protein-energy, fluid, electrolyte, or nutrient balances, when they are on a conventionally accepted, normal diet. Many are therefore dependent on constant food intake or/and parenteral (intravenous) supplements in the form of fluids, salts and nutrition delivered through a central catheter to maintain body homeostasis. Before the 1970s, this group of patients often died because of dehydration and malnutrition. Today, the implementation of parenteral support, including the possibility of home administration, has increased survival and life expectancy for patients with SBS, resulting in high prevalence growth. There are estimated 10-20,000 SBS patients in the EU and a similar number in the US.

Patients dependent on regular parenteral support, experience a number of serious and life-threatening complications associated with their disease and treatment including shortened life span, high risk of sepsis, blood clots, and liver damage and renal impairment. In addition, patients have markedly reduced quality-of-life due to often 10-12 hour overnight parenteral infusion causing sleep disturbance and restraining them in their daily activities.

Teduglutide (Gattex® / Revestive®), a GLP-2 receptor agonist, was approved in 2012 and launched in 2014 in both the US and Europe as the first medicine indicated for the treatment of SBS.
About Zealand Pharma

Zealand Pharma A/S (Nasdaq Copenhagen: ZEAL) (“Zealand”) is a biotech company with leading-edge scientific expertise in turning peptides into medicines. Zealand has a growing proprietary pipeline of novel specialty drug candidates and a mature portfolio of products and projects under license collaborations with Sanofi, Helsinn Healthcare and Boehringer Ingelheim.

Zealand’s first invented medicine, lixisenatide, a once-daily prandial GLP-1 analogue for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes, is marketed globally (ex-US) as Lyxumia® by Sanofi and under regulatory review in the US. The license agreement with Sanofi covers also LixiLan, which is a single-product combination of lixisenatide and insulin glargine 100 Units/mL (Lantus®). LixiLan has been submitted for regulatory priority review in the US and regulatory submission in the EU is expected in Q1 2016.

The proprietary pipeline includes; danegaptide for ischemic reperfusion Injuries (Phase II); ZP1848 for Short Bowel Syndrome (Phase II); and the stable glucagon analogue, ZP4207 for single-dose use in a rescue pen for severe hypoglycemia (Phase II) and for multiple-dose use to improve glucose control in diabetes (Phase I); ZP2929 for diabetes/obesity (Phase I); and several preclinical peptide therapeutics.

The company is based in Copenhagen (Glostrup), Denmark. For further information about Zealand’s business and activities, please visit: www.zealandpharma.com or follow us on Twitter @ZealandPharma