



## **Sickle Cell Treatment Approved for Phase III Clinical Trial**

LOS ANGELES, Calif., April 24, 2009 – Emmaus Medical, Inc., a Torrance, California based pharmaceutical company, announced this week that the Food and Drug Administration gave its approval for Emmaus Medical to begin a Phase 3 clinical trial of an experimental treatment for sickle cell disease.

The patented experimental treatment involves the oral administration of L-glutamine, which is the most common amino acid in the body. The experimental treatment was originally developed by investigators led by Professor Yutaka Niihara, MD, MPH at the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (LA BioMed) and is licensed to Emmaus Medical. This is one of very few experimental treatments for sickle cell disease to reach the Phase 3 clinical trial stage. This treatment has already received FDA orphan drug and fast track designations.

“News of this clinical trial should be of great interest to the millions of people around the world who suffer from painful crises caused by sickle cell disease,” said Dr. Niihara. “Phase 3 clinical trials are usually the last clinical trials conducted before FDA approval is obtained and the treatment can be made widely available to the patient population.”

Sickle cell disease is an inherited disorder that causes red blood cells to become oxidized, sticky, and sickle-shaped instead of smooth, pliable and round. Sickle cell disease leads to anemia, chronic and acute pain, organ damage, and a host of other problems.

“In our Phase 2 clinical trial, we observed an excellent safety profile and positive trends in reducing the number of crises and hospitalizations in sickle cell disease patients,” said Dr. Niihara. “We look forward to initiating the Phase 3 clinical trial and remain committed to developing a treatment for sickle cell disease.”

### **About Emmaus Medical, Inc.**

Emmaus Medical, Inc. was founded in 2000 as a private company to develop new treatments for sickle cell disease and other rare diseases. Emmaus Medical’s first product, NutreStore™ [L-glutamine powder for oral solution], together with Zorbitive® [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] and a specialized oral diet, is the only FDA-approved therapy for short bowel syndrome.

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements about the business prospects of Emmaus Medical, Inc., including, without limitation, statements about expectations related to the clinical trials. These forward-looking statements are predictions and involve risks and uncertainties such that actual results may differ materially from these statements. These risks and uncertainties include, among others: results and timing of current and planned clinical trials; the enrollment rate of such study; the content and timing of decisions by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Stockholders are urged not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. Emmaus Medical is under no obligation, and expressly disclaims any obligation to update or alter any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

SOURCE Emmaus Medical, Inc. -- 04/24/2009

### **CONTACT:**

Daniel R. Kimbell, Esq. (310-214-0065)

Web Site: <http://www.emmausmedical.com>