

FemmePharma advances testing of breast pain drug

FemmePharma Global Healthcare Inc. filed plans to begin clinical testing of its latest new drug candidate, a topical cream for breast pain.

An estimated 26 million women in the United States suffer from breast pain.

Gerianne Tringali DiPiano, FemmePharma's president and CEO, said her company is developing its topical breast pain cream as an alternative to the currently available treatments that carry objectionable side effects.

"If a woman goes to her physician today for medication to help relieve breast pain she likely will be faced with several inferior choices: an FDA-approved prescription medication that typically causes unpalatable side effects like facial hair growth, weight gain and acne; or an over-the-counter pain reliever that does not address the underlying causes of breast pain," DiPiano said.

Clinical trials of the experimental cream are expected to begin this year.

The Wayne-based specialty pharmaceutical company's focus is developing treatments for diseases and disorders suffered by women.

Last year, FemmePharma sold the rights to its former lead product, a treatment for endometriosis, to KV Pharmaceutical Co. of St. Louis. The drug used FemmePhar-



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ma's patented platform technology that eliminates systemic side effects by concentrating a small amount of the drug directly to a targeted area.

Lab notes

Octagon Research Solutions Inc. has expanded its operations to a second corporate suite in Wayne. The company specializes in the electronic transformation of clinical research-and-development data for companies in the life sciences industry. **Jim Walker**, chairman and CEO, said the expansion was needed to keep pace with the company's growth. Since 2003, Octagon has more than doubled its staff size from 79 employees to 205 ... **Maxiom Consulting Group Inc.**, a Massachusetts business and information technology consulting firm that focuses on life sciences, expanded into the mid-Atlantic region by opening an office in Princeton to serve companies in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

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