NOVARTIS

Basel, March 20, 2015 - Novartis announced today results from the CLEAR study demonstrating that Cosentyx(TM) (secukinumab) is significantly superior to Stelara ®

* (ustekinumab), a widely used biologic, in achieving clear or almost clear skin for psoriasis patients[1]. The detailed findings were presented in a late-breaking research session at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) in San Francisco, USA. Cosentyx (at a dose of 300 mg) is the first and only interleukin-17A (IL-17A) inhibitor approved to treat adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis.

In this Phase IIIb study, Cosentyx met the primary endpoint of showing superiority to Stelara as assessed by the Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI) 90 response, known as clear to almost clear skin[2], at Week 16 (79.0% vs. 57.6%, P