

FEMALE-FOCUSED PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY FLAUNTS ITS AGE

FemmePharma Global Healthcare Celebrates 10 Years

WAYNE, PA---For the most part, the pharmaceutical industry is dominated by aging giants. Making headway into this "old boy" network can be daunting for some, but not for Gerianne Tringali DiPiano. In 1996, after spending more than 15 years in the healthcare industry, Tringali DiPiano combined her interest in women's health care issues and her personal funds and launched FemmePharma Inc., now FemmePharma Global Healthcare, a pharmaceutical company committed to addressing the diseases and disorder that affect women. The company is celebrating its ten-year anniversary and a decade of accomplishments.

A Decade of Success

FemmePharma Global Healthcare is a company that is dedicated to developing drugs for diseases and disorders that disproportionately affect women. The company aims to improve the quality of life for these women and reduce the side effects of existing treatments from endometriosis, urinary incontinence, fibrocystic breast disease, HIV, dysfunctional uterine bleeding, and other conditions. The company's first project was to develop a novel treatment for endometriosis, a patented technology that offers women a non-surgical alternative to traditional forms of treatment.

Endometriosis is one of the most prevalent diseases on the face of the earth, affecting more than 11 million women in the U.S. alone. The two most common symptoms of the disease are pain and infertility. Historically, it is treated with pain medication, hormone therapy and surgery, all of which can cause unpleasant side effects. FemmePharma's patented platform technology delivers drugs directly into the pelvic and reproductive areas with preferred absorption and migration into the affected areas, thereby eliminating undesirable side effects. After successfully completing Phase 2 studies for the treatment, the product was acquired by KV Pharmaceutical which will continue its development and bring the drug to market.

Offering Hope to Women

The development of a treatment to alleviate mastalgia, or breast pain, comes at the heels of the company's success with treating endometriosis. Earlier this year, FemmePharma opened an Investigational New Drug Application for the treatment of breast pain and clinical trials will begin in early 2007. The company's efforts to create an effective treatment that yields no harmful side effects could offer long-awaited relief for those women who suffer sharp, stabbing, burning, chronic pain.

According to Tringali DiPiano, female patients are often given cursory, ineffective advice on how to cope with breast pain or are treated as if the disorder is a phantom pain. "Breast pain produces stress and anxiety as women are concerned about the underlying causes of the pain. Even more concerning, breast pain is a leading reason why physicians over prescribe mammography for young women." The company's topical treatment promises to diminish side effects and achieve efficacy.

FemmePharma is also studying new treatment options for treating urinary incontinence in women. The drug will have high bioavailability within the pelvic region and affect the local bladder receptors, resulting in lower systemic side effects. This treatment option should be a viable alternative to women who cannot tolerate currently available pharmacological treatments

The Early Years

Tringali DiPiano grew up in Central Maryland. Her parents both supported and influenced her passion for science. This passion never waned and motivated her through college, graduate school and in her career. She credits her parents with creating a household that contained the right mix of love, encouragement and acceptance – their support gave her the confidence to try new things and the self-assurance that she could succeed in her endeavors.

Her dream of forming a pharmaceutical company did not happen overnight. Before moving her vision forward, she spent many years working for various pharmaceutical companies including, E.R. Squibb, Kodak Sterling, and Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, affording her an insider's view. According to Tringali DiPiano, "This experience was invaluable, not only for what I learned, but also for what I was able to identify as lacking in the development of drugs for the specific needs of women. I recognized that big companies were only investing minimal effort into studying the unique health problems presented by women."

FemmePharma was launched to add another dimension to an industry that had defined contraception and hormone replacement as the only viable female health issues. Tringali DiPiano's experiences opened her eyes to the deficiencies in the system. "I believed the time had come to be more proactive in research and development efforts. A female-focused pharmaceutical company offers unprecedented opportunities to concentrate on the physiological differences between the sexes and to improve the quality of life for women," she said.

Lessons Learned

Starting FemmePharma was a great accomplishment for Tringali DiPiano and she is committed to ensuring that the company continues to lead the way in helping women who suffer from a range of conditions. "My goal is to bring more products to market and eventually go public. I am always challenged to move our developments through clinical trials and get them to market...finding ways to improve speed but not to compromise the work we do," she said.

In reviewing her 10 years at the helm, Tringali DiPiano identified her biggest success as the development of the drug for endometriosis. Although it was tough decision to sell the drug, she knew that it meant the drug would be marketed well and get into the hands of practitioners faster.

The road to success has not been without bumps. Over the past decade, she learned some lessons the hard way. Most importantly, she discovered that when hiring pivotal people in an organization, technical competency is one criterion, but choosing employees who are compatible with the corporation's culture is essential. Early in the company's history, Tringali DiPiano hired former employees of large pharmaceutical companies. Although highly skilled, these people were not good candidates for FemmePharma. As specialists who had worked for companies with big budgets, they were inexperienced with all phases of product development and were not trained to conserve resources. Tringali DiPiano, on the other hand, takes pride in being financially astute and using capital efficiently to avoid becoming reliant on external resources.

At Home and in the Community

You would think that such a significant undertaking would consume Tringali DiPiano's attention. But given her commitment, drive and tenacity, this is not the case. In addition to being founder, president and CEO of an innovative drug company, she is also a mother and wife who takes each role seriously. She speculates that the key to her success has been her ability to keep her priorities straight.

She stays grounded and focused by concentrating on three major components of her life --- religion, family and work. She even manages to invest her significant energy into causes she believes in.

Tringali DiPiano serves on the Boards of Drexel University, Women's Law Project, Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Temple University School of Allied Health Professions, Drexel University School of Public Health, Advisory Board of the Pharmaceutical MBA Program, Academic Affairs Committee, Corporate Advisory board of the Society of Gynecological Investigation and on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Biotechnology Healthcare publication. She is a recipient of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Biotechnology Award and the Iris F. Newman Award (Ben Franklin Technology Awards). She has been a Life Science Finalist three times for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award and been cited as a person to watch by *Philadelphia Magazine* and the *Main Line Times*. Tringali DiPiano was recently identified as one of "25 Women of Distinction" in Philadelphia by *The Philadelphia Business Journal*. In addition, the Eastern Technology Council has saluted FemmePharma as a Company to Watch through its annual Enterprise Awards.

Tringali DiPiano believes strongly in sharing her knowledge with students and has guest lectured and been a conference moderator for University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Temple University Fox School of Business, Temple University Institute for Entrepreneurship, and the University of the Sciences. She serves on the corporate advisory board of the Society of Gynecological Investigation and on the editorial advisory board of the Biotechnology Healthcare publication. She has shared her professional insights and experience as a guest speaker for the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Association and the Greater Philadelphia Venture Group.

She is also a strong supporter of local and national charities including the MS Society, which has honored her with the MS Leadership Award.

For more information about the FemmePharma Global Healthcare, which is based in Wayne, PA, visit www.fpghc.com or call 610-995-0801 to obtain information.