



## spotlight on health



### New Research Shows Zelnorm™ Helps IBS Sufferers

(NAPSA)—A new study of more than 1500 female patients with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) shows that Zelnorm™ (tegaserod maleate) demonstrated significant improvement of multiple symptoms in women with IBS suffering from abdominal pain, discomfort and constipation. IBS is a chronic disorder characterized by abdominal pain, discomfort and constipation or diarrhea (or an alternating pattern of the two). Zelnorm currently is under review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of abdominal pain, discomfort and constipation in women with C-IBS.

“One of the true unmet needs in medicine today is a safe and effective treatment for IBS, a disease that affects about one-in-five Americans,” said Brian Lacy, MD, assistant professor of Medicine in the Division of Digestive Diseases at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and acting director of the Marvin M. Schuster Center for Digestive and Motility Disorders. “Today’s findings suggest a major advance in treating IBS because the data demonstrate that the majority of patients treated with Zelnorm experienced significant relief within the first week of treatment.”

The new data were presented at the 32nd annual Digestive Disease Week (DDW) meeting in Atlanta in

May. DDW is a joint meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), the American Gastroenterology Association (AGA), the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT).

IBS is recognized as the second leading cause of workplace absenteeism in the U.S. after the common cold. IBS can have a significant impact on a person’s everyday life, limiting a person’s ability to work and go about normal daily activities, such as shopping, exercising and socializing. This troubling disorder costs the U.S. healthcare system more than \$8 billion annually.

Up to 40 million Americans suffer from IBS, which is one of the most common gastrointestinal (GI) disorders, accounting for about 30 percent of all visits to gastrointestinal specialists. There is no single medication available proven to be safe and effective for relieving abdominal pain, discomfort and constipation in IBS patients.

The most common adverse events reported in this study included headache and diarrhea. In most cases, the diarrhea occurred early, was transient, and was most often observed as a single episode during the 12-week treatment period.