FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALS Association Applauds FDA for Speedy Approval of New ALS Drug

Radicava is First Approved Treatment for ALS in Decades

May 5, 2017 –

The ALS Association, the only national nonprofit fighting amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) on every front, applauded the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) announcement today that it has approved Radicava (Edaravone), the first new treatment approved specifically for ALS in 22 years. The FDA approved Radicava less than a year after Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation submitted a New Drug Application. The only other approved treatment specifically for ALS, Riluzole, was approved in 1995.

“We thank the FDA and MT Pharma for working with The ALS Association to expedite the approval of this first new ALS-specific treatment in decades, as well as the many ALS advocates who joined us in pushing the FDA to move so quickly,” said Fred Fisher, President and CEO of The ALS Association Golden West Chapter. “This wonderful news comes during ALS Awareness Month, and we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that this is the first of many new treatments to come.”

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Eventually, people with ALS lose the ability to initiate and control muscle movement, which often leads to total paralysis and death within two to five years of diagnosis. For unknown reasons, veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS as the general population.

Edaravone was originally approved in Japan to treat stroke and in 2015, it was approved for use as a treatment for ALS in Japan and South Korea. In the United States, it will be commercialized under the brand name Radicava. According to MT Pharma, the drug has been demonstrated to slow decline of physical function in ALS patients by up to 33 percent.

More information about Radicava, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found at http://bit.ly/GWC-Radicava

About The ALS Association Golden West Chapter
The mission of The ALS Association is to discover treatments and a cure for ALS, and to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest. The Golden West Chapter serves people with ALS and their families in 31 counties throughout California and in the state of Hawaii. For more information about The ALS Association Golden West Chapter, please visit us at http://www.alsagoldenwest.org

About MT Pharma America, Inc.
Based in Jersey City, NJ, MT Pharma America is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MTPC’s 100% owned U.S. holding company, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Holdings America, Inc. MT Pharma America is dedicated to delivering innovative solutions that address the unmet medical needs of patients in the United States. It was established by MTPC to commercialize approved pharmaceutical products in the U.S. with plans to expand its product line through collaborations with partners.