

Media Contacts: Robert Goldstein
ALS TDI
617/441-7295
rgoldstein@als.net

For Immediate Release

ALS Therapy Development Institute Signs Manufacturing Agreement with Microbix Biosystems Inc. High Quality Adenoviral Production

Research Aimed at validating therapeutic molecules in ALS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. October 16, 2007 — The ALS Therapy Development Institute (ALS TDI) today announced it has signed an agreement with Microbix Biosystems Inc. of Toronto, Canada for the manufacturing of high quality adenoviral stocks to be tested in the mouse model of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Adenoviruses are non-pathogenic viruses that can deliver specifically selected genes to key sites in the body or to cultured cells for therapeutic purposes. Scientists at ALS TDI are focused on discovering and developing effective treatments for the disease which affects approximately 30,000 people in the United States alone. As part of their research discovery effort, ALS TDI scientists are investigating several different therapeutic delivery strategies. The production of adenoviral stocks in collaboration with Microbix is a significant part of that therapeutic delivery plan.

“The production of high titer adenoviral constructs required for animal testing requires specialized manufacturing expertise that only recognized leaders in the field like Microbix can deliver,” says Steve Perrin Chief Scientific Officer at the ALS TDI. “The relationship with Microbix will allow the Research & Development team at the ALS TDI to test dozens of adenoviral constructs to knock down the expression of genes or over-express genes that may impact disease progression in the mouse model of ALS.”

Under the terms of the one-year contract, Microbix will use its proprietary technology to produce, purify and characterize various adenoviruses created to carry therapies to sites of ALS pathology. The preparations will then be returned to the Institute, allowing them to further their research into this debilitating disease.

“We are honored to have been chosen by ALS TDI for this critical component of their program,” said William J. Gastle, CEO of Microbix. “This contract recognizes our leadership position in adenovirus production, and fits well into our near term plan to expand our core virology business into therapeutic applications.”

This work was made possible in part through a three-year \$36 million fundraising partnership with Augie’s Quest, the MDA’s fast-track ALS research initiative. The partnership

calls for each group to invest \$18 million over the next three years in the \$60 million scientific research plan being executed by ALS TDI.

“Patients and families should be excited about this collaboration for a couple of reasons. High quality, high volume manufacturing of gene therapies will allow us to switch genes on and off at an unprecedented pace. We’re scaling this project to get to the answer no matter how many genes we’ve got to modulate. It might be gene 1 or gene 300 that controls the disease so we need to keep marching until we find it,” said Sean Scott, president of ALS TDI.

About ALS Therapy Development Institute

The ALS Therapy Development Institute (www.als.net), based in Cambridge, Mass., was founded in 1999 as the ALS Therapy Development Foundation. Re-named in 2007 as a result of its collaboration with MDA’s Augie’s Quest, the Institute continues its mission to discover and develop drugs to treat ALS. It excels in identifying novel disease targets, discovering compounds that may act against these targets, and screening these potential treatments toward bringing viable therapeutics to the clinic.

About Augie's Quest

Fitness pioneer Augie Nieto started Augie's Quest (www.augiesquest.org) in conjunction with MDA's ALS Division. Nieto is co-founder and former president of Life Fitness of Chicago, and chairman of Octane Fitness. He and his wife, Lynne, serve as co-chairpersons of MDA's ALS Division. Nieto received a diagnosis of ALS in March 2005.

About MDA

MDA (www.mda.org) is the world’s largest provider of ALS services and funder of ALS research. Over the years, it has expended almost \$200 million in this effort. It operates 225 neuromuscular disease clinics across the country and 37 ALS-specific research and care centers.

About Microbix

Microbix Biosystems Inc. (www.microbix.com) specializes in developing proprietary biological technologies and commercializing them through global partners. Established in 1988, Microbix is headquartered in Toronto, Canada.

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