



Alethia Biotherapeutics

## **Alethia Biotherapeutics Announces Issuance of its First Therapeutic Target Patent Emanating from its Proprietary Target Discovery Platform**

MONTREAL, May 26, 2011 – Alethia Biotherapeutics Inc., a privately held pre-clinical stage biotechnology company, announced today the issuance of US patent number 7,947,436 entitled “Polynucleotide and Polypeptide Sequences Involved in the Process of Bone Remodeling”. This key patent provides protection for identification of Tsp50 inhibitors of osteoclast differentiation. Mr. Yves Cornellier, President & CEO of Alethia commented, “This first target patent represents a significant milestone for the Company as it validates the discovery capabilities and the strategy of the organization to focus on the development of monoclonal antibodies against novel proprietary targets. This patent is the first of a series of patents for protection of other novel targets to be issued in the coming months.”

Alethia used its proprietary subtractive cloning technology, called STAR, to discover new mRNA sequences that are expressed in differentiating osteoclasts, the cells responsible for bone resorption. Osteoclasts, which normally participate in bone remodeling, a process that occurs naturally throughout life to maintain skeletal structure, are cells that can become over-active in diseases where severe bone loss occurs. Work performed at Alethia has demonstrated an important functional role for Tsp50 in differentiating osteoclasts and inhibitors of this protein, such as monoclonal antibodies, lead to impairment of their function. Dr. Mario Filion, Chief Scientific Officer of Alethia commented, “This target certainly offers a new promising avenue to the development of new bone anti-resorptives with improved specificity and reflects the innovative research potential of the organization”.

### **About Alethia Biotherapeutics Inc.**

Alethia is a privately held, Montreal-based pre-clinical stage biotechnology company created in 2002. Alethia develops innovative therapeutic approaches in areas of unmet medical needs. The Company is currently focusing its development efforts on cancer-associated epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT), ovarian cancer, and cancer-induced bone loss, three areas for which there are very few therapeutic alternatives. Alethia capitalizes on its ability to identify and validate disease-specific targets for the development of highly focused antibody-based therapeutics.

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