

Alethia Biotherapeutics Announces Notice of Allowance of a United States Patent for Monoclonal Antibodies Targeting Secreted Clusterin for Inhibition of EMT

MONTREAL, February 28, 2013 – Alethia Biotherapeutics Inc., a privately held biotechnology company focusing on the development of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies, announced today that the Company has received a notice of allowance for a US patent related to Secreted Clusterin (sCLU) entitled "Methods and Compositions for Modulating Tumor Cell Activity" (application serial No. 12/846,440). Once issued, the patent will cover methods for inhibiting epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) of carcinoma cells and for treating metastatic carcinoma with antibodies targeting the carboxy-terminal portion of the beta subunit of sCLU. Mr. Yves Cornellier, President & CEO of Alethia commented, "We are very pleased with the allowance of this new patent. It underscores the strength of our intellectual property portfolio and further broadens the scope of this technology in indications where sCLU induces EMT and metastatic invasion".

Alethia and its collaborators at National Research Council Canada have demonstrated that sCLU is a potent inducer of EMT, a mechanism that is one of the most important contributors to tumor invasion and metastasis. Dr. Mario Filion, Chief Scientific Officer of Alethia commented, "Antibodies that interact with a specific epitope in the carboxy-terminal portion of sCLU inhibit the ability of the protein to induce EMT. We demonstrated in numerous *in vivo* studies that AB-16B5, our lead monoclonal antibody in this program, caused an increase in responsiveness of tumors to chemotherapy and reduced the growth of the tumors. These results highlighted the potential of AB-16B5 inhibition of sCLU in models of cancer for indications including prostate, breast and pancreatic cancer. AB-16B5 represents one of the rare EMT inhibitors that demonstrated inhibition of EMT *in vivo* in human models of cancer."

About Alethia Biotherapeutics Inc.

Alethia is a privately held, Montreal-based biotechnology company created in 2002. Alethia develops monoclonal antibody therapeutics against novel clinically relevant targets identified using its patented STAR discovery technology. Alethia is well funded with top-tier investors committed to the success of the Company notably, Agechem Venture Fund, BDC Capital and GO Capital.

Contacts

Yves Cornellier
President and CEO
ycornellier@alethiabio.com
Tol: (514) 858 7666 ext. 206

Tel: (514) 858-7666 ext. 206

Mario Filion, Ph.D. Executive VP, CSO mariof@alethiabio.com

Tel: (514) 858-7666 ext.207