



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

AmorChem invests in the development of 5-oxo-ETE receptor antagonists for inflammation.

Montreal, January 25, 2013 — AmorChem is delighted to announce the closing of a transaction with McGill University and the Florida Institute of Technology to pursue the development of 5-oxo-ETE Receptor Antagonists for the treatment of eosinophilic disorders, including severe asthma. MSBi Valorisation will be joining AmorChem in this financing as a co-investor.

The project financed by AmorChem is based on the seminal work accomplished by Drs. William Powell and Joe Rokach on 5-oxo-ETE, a novel metabolite in the arachidonic acid pathway that is characterized by its role in eosinophil recruitment to sites of inflammation. The researchers are based respectively at the Meakins-Christie Laboratories of McGill University and the Research Institute of the McGill University Hospital Centre ("RI-MUHC") and at the Florida Institute of Technology.

"AmorChem is honoured to be collaborating with Drs. Powell and Rokach, both world-class scientists and leaders in the field of eicosanoid biology and chemistry," explains Dr. Elizabeth Douville, General Partner at AmorChem. "The importance of 5-oxo-ETE in inflammation has eluded researchers in the field because of the lack of appropriate tools. Drs. Powell and Rokach have developed subnanomolar 5-oxo-ETE receptor antagonists which will enable us to define the specific role of this eicosanoid metabolite in inflammation in vivo and more importantly its role in different disease settings," she added.

Asthma and allergies are characterized by tissue infiltration of eosinophils, which contribute to inflammation, tissue damage, and remodeling. There is abundant evidence that lipids derived from the 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO) pathway are important pro-inflammatory mediators in asthma and other allergic diseases. The most familiar products of the 5-LO metabolism of arachidonic acid are the cysteinyl leukotrienes (cysLTs), as they are potent mediators of contractile responses in the airways and antagonists of their receptors, such as SingulairTM, are marketed as therapies for asthma. Among the 5-LO products, 5-oxo-ETE is the most powerful known chemoattractant for human eosinophils in vitro and it acts synergistically with peptide chemokines in inducing eosinophil migration. The work proposed in this project will target the animal proof of concept of potent 5 oxo-ETE antagonists developed in the laboratories of Drs. Powell and Rokach.

"Translating the results of our cutting-edge research into better patient care is a priority for our University," says Dr. Rose Goldstein, McGill's Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations). "We are proud to be a part of this promising project, which could someday result in concrete improvements in the lives of those who suffer from severe asthma and other eosinophilic disorders."

"This project brings together not only two great academic institutions but also, for the first time, two of the most prominent seed stage investment groups in Canada, AmorChem and MSBi Valorisation. Such syndication of efforts is crucial in order to build stronger projects and business offerings to the

pharmaceutical industry. We look forward to co-investing with AmorChem in other exciting opportunities,” says Frédéric Lemaître Auger, Investment Manager at MSBiV.

“We are very proud of Dr. Rokach and his stellar scientific expertise. This new collaboration with Dr. Powell is a great opportunity for him to continue his important immune system research,” says Frank Kinney, Vice President for Research at the Florida Institute of Technology.

“AmorChem is very happy to welcome MSBiV as a co-investor. We appreciate working with local groups who understand the value of the research being conducted in Quebec-based institutions,” adds Dr. Inès Holzbaur, General Partner at AmorChem.

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ABOUT AMORCHEM L.P.

AmorChem L.P. (www.amorchem.com) is a venture capital fund located in Montreal focused on investing in promising life science projects originating from Quebec-based universities and research centres. The principal limited partners of this fund are Investissement-Québec, FIER Partenaires, Fonds de solidarité FTQ and Merck & Co. This fund is the latest addition to the GeneChem portfolio of funds, a fund manager in existence since 1997. AmorChem’s innovative business model involves financing research-stage projects to enable them to reach pre-clinical proof-of-concept (“POC”) in a semi-virtual mode within 18-24 months. The fund seeks to generate returns through a two-pronged exit strategy: sell projects having reached POC to large biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies; or bundle them into new spin-out companies. The projects will be managed by AmorChem using external resources. To that effect, AmorChem has established a strategic partnership with the Biotechnology Research Institute in order to access its R&D platforms. In addition, to enabling projects requiring small molecules as tools or drug leads, AmorChem has founded NuChem Therapeutics Inc., a medicinal chemistry contract-research company (www.nuchemtherapeutics.com).

ABOUT MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Founded in Montreal, Quebec, in 1821, McGill is Canada’s leading university, with two campuses, 11 faculties, 11 professional schools, 300 programs and more than 37,000 students, including 8,300 at the graduate level. McGill welcomes students from more than 150 countries, with 7,200 foreign students making up 20 per cent of the student body. For further information, go to: www.mcgill.ca

ABOUT THE RI-MUHC

The Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) is a world-renowned biomedical and health-care hospital research centre. Located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the Institute is the research arm of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University. The Institute supports over 600 researchers, over 1,100 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows devoted to a broad spectrum of fundamental, clinical and health outcomes research. Over 1,800 clinical research studies are conducted within our hospitals each year. The Research Institute of the MUHC is supported in part by the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS). www.muhc.ca/research

ABOUT MSBi VALORISATION

MSBi Valorisation provides its academic partners and affiliated entities, the financial resources and complementary expertise needed to accelerate and facilitate the commercialization of high potential technologies. Partner institutions include McGill University, Université de Sherbrooke and Bishop’s University, as well as their affiliated hospitals, research institutes and technology transfer entities.

MSBiV brings industry knowledge and relationships to the existing effort of bridging the gap between discoveries resulting from university research and the marketplace. www.msбив.ca

ABOUT FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Founded at the dawn of the Space Race in 1958, Florida Tech is the only independent, technological university in the Southeast. The university has been named a Barron's Guide "Best Buy" in College Education, designated a Tier One Best National University in U.S. News & World Report, and is one of just nine schools in Florida lauded by the 2012 Fiske Guide to Colleges and recognized by *Bloomberg Businessweek* as the best college for return on investment in Florida. A recent survey by PayScale.com ranks Florida Tech as the university providing the best salary potential to its graduates in Florida. The university offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs. Fields of study include science, engineering, aeronautics, business, humanities, mathematics, psychology, communication and education. Additional information is available online at: www.fit.edu

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