



NEWS RELEASE

## **AmorChem Sells Cystic Fibrosis Assets to Vertex Pharmaceuticals**

**Montreal, Quebec – November 22, 2016** – AmorChem L.P. today announced the purchase of its cystic fibrosis (CF) assets by Vertex Pharmaceuticals. The molecules acquired interact with the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) protein, known to be defective in people with CF, and will be used in research to help advance Vertex’s CF program.

“Vertex’s expertise and dedication to CF uniquely positions the company to progress these molecules,” said Inès Holzbour, Ph.D., managing partner at AmorChem. “We are gratified to know that our assets are now on a path to eventually help cystic fibrosis patients.”

AmorChem financially supported the development of the molecules through a successful collaboration between Prof. David Thomas and Prof. John Hanrahan at McGill University and Traffick Therapeutics Inc., and also NuChem Therapeutics inc., AmorChem’s medicinal chemistry contract research organization.

“Our venture capital fund was launched on the premise that there is valuable research being achieved in Quebec-based institutions,” said Elizabeth Douville, managing partner at AmorChem. “This agreement continues to prove that we can indeed deliver highly attractive assets to biotech companies interested by innovative, early-stage research.”

### **ABOUT AMORCHEM L.P.**

AmorChem L.P. ([www.amorchem.com](http://www.amorchem.com)) is a venture capital fund located in Montreal focused on investing in promising life science projects originating primarily from Quebec-based universities and research centres. Closed in 2011, its principal limited partners are Investissement-Québec, FIER Partenaires, Fonds de solidarité FTQ and Merck & Co. 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 start-up new spin-out companies. AmorChem has built a 24-project portfolio across innovative technologies and covering a large breadth of indications. In addition, to enable projects requiring small molecules as tools or drug leads, AmorChem has founded NuChem Therapeutics Inc., a medicinal chemistry contract-research company.