Bicycle Therapeutics and ThromboGenics form an alliance to develop bicyclic peptide inhibitors for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases

Cambridge, UK, 5 September 2013 Bicycle Therapeutics, a next generation biotherapeutics company developing novel bicyclic peptides, today announced that it has entered into a collaboration and license agreement with ThromboGenics NV to develop potent and selective bicyclic peptide inhibitors against a specific drug target of interest for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases, such as diabetic macular edema (DME).

DME is a leading cause of adult vision loss, and a significant proportion of patients do not respond adequately to existing therapies. Bicycle Therapeutics has identified bicyclic peptides that selectively inhibit a target involved in vascular permeability, and inhibiting this target represents a new approach that offers the potential to improve the treatment of DME.

Bicycle and ThromboGenics will collaborate on the preclinical development of these bicyclic peptide inhibitors, with ThromboGenics having the exclusive license to undertake clinical development and commercialization of identified drug candidates.

Bicycle Therapeutics receives an upfront fee, development and regulatory milestone payments and royalties on sales of products resulting from the collaboration.

Commenting on the collaboration, Dr Rolf Guenther, CEO of Bicycle Therapeutics, said: "We have used the Bicycle technology platform to identify and optimize highly selective bicyclic peptides that inhibit the selected target in the picomolar range. I am delighted to enter this collaboration with ThromboGenics, a partner with a focus and successful track record in developing novel ophthalmic therapeutics, and look forward to progressing drug candidates into the clinic".

Dr Patrik De Haes, CEO of ThromboGenics, said: "We believe that the Bicycle technology platform can yield novel therapeutics that hold promise for ophthalmology applications. As a result we are excited to explore these molecules further together with Bicycle Therapeutics with the aim to progress clearly differentiated drug candidates through to the next stages of development".

About Bicycle Therapeutics

Bicycle Therapeutics has developed a proprietary bicyclic peptide based technology that enables the discovery of a new class of drug candidates ('bicycles') providing antibody-like affinity and selectivity in a much smaller chemically synthesized molecule. Bicycle peptides are short peptide sequences constrained by a chemical scaffold core to form a structure with two loops of amino acids. This structure confers high stability and high affinity binding to targets. The company is applying the technology to drug discovery projects in areas including oncology and ophthalmology and additional therapeutic areas through selected collaborative discovery partnerships with pharmaceutical companies.

Bicycle’s technology is based on the work performed at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge by the scientific founders of the company, Prof. Christian Heinis and Sir Gregory Winter. The company is funded by Atlas Venture, Novartis Venture Fund, SVLS, SR One and Astellas Venture Management. For more information visit www.bicycletherapeutics.com.
**About ThromboGenics**

ThromboGenics is an integrated biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing innovative ophthalmic and oncology medicines. The Company’s lead product, JETREA® (ocriplasmin), has been approved by the US FDA for the treatment of symptomatic VMA and was launched in January 2013.

ThromboGenics is headquartered in Leuven, Belgium, and has offices in Iselin, NJ (US) and Dublin, Ireland. The Company is listed on the NYSE Euronext Brussels exchange under the symbol THR. More information is available at [www.thrombogenics.com](http://www.thrombogenics.com).

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