



## **Alethia BioTherapeutics Inc. announces the filing of a patent application for its bone-related validated targets**

MONTREAL, December 19, 2005 – Alethia BioTherapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company with innovative approaches for the treatment of cancer and related diseases, is pleased to announce today the filing of a PCT patent application encompassing the intellectual property surrounding new validated targets that play an important functional role in the differentiation and activation of osteoclasts, the bone-specific cells responsible for bone degradation. These candidate genes were discovered using Alethia’s proprietary STAR technology (Subtractive Transcription-based Amplification of mRNA), a unique, patented discovery platform developed by scientists at Alethia to identify key regulators of biological activity in diseased cells and tissues. These new targets represent a diverse collection of highly specific regulators of osteoclast function, which had yet to be described in the context of bone metabolism. It is expected that some or all of these proteins will serve as excellent candidates for the development of novel treatments for bone-related disorders such as acute metastatic bone cancer, multiple myeloma, rheumatoid arthritis and chronic osteoporosis.

“Alethia’s STAR platform has proven its ability to identify differentially expressed mRNA sequences that are rare which may in fact encode some of the best drug targets. STAR’s tremendous potential for identifying novel gene targets has been confirmed by Alethia’s identification of hundreds of disease-related genes which have then been prioritized on the basis of their tissue-specific expression profiles and finally subjected to validation as potential drug targets. The power of the target discovery platform was further evidenced by the relatively high hit rate that was achieved during the validation phase. These new regulators of osteoclast function, some of which encode membrane-bound or secreted factors, will serve as great molecular targets for the development of highly specific therapeutics,” said Dr. Mario Filion, Alethia’s chief scientific officer.

Mr. Yves Cornellier, Alethia’s CEO commented, “There is tremendous value in these targets since current treatments for severe bone degradative diseases are currently limited and new therapeutic targets will permit novel strategies for attacking these indications. Alethia is now in a position to establish strategic partnerships with larger biopharmaceutical companies seeking to develop new drugs for bone-related disorders”.

ABOUT ALETHIA BIOTHERAPEUTICS INC.

Established in 2002, Alethia BioTherapeutics is a Montreal-based biotechnology company engaged in the discovery and development of therapeutics for the treatment of cancer and cancer-associated complications. Alethia applies its proprietary discovery platform for the identification and validation of therapeutic targets in cancer-induced bone loss and ovarian cancer.

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