



Alethia Biotherapeutics extends its collaborative agreement with Biosite for monoclonal antibody development

MONTREAL, May 26, 2009 – Alethia Biotherapeutics Inc., a privately held biotechnology company, announced today that it has expanded an ongoing collaborative agreement with Biosite Incorporated of San Diego for the development of recombinant monoclonal antibodies against proprietary validated targets. Under the terms of the collaboration, Biosite will generate high-affinity monoclonal antibodies against functionally relevant proteins in Alethia's therapeutic fields of interest. In return, Biosite will obtain a first right of refusal on promising biomarkers in these areas for diagnostic applications.

"We are extremely excited with the prospect of continuing this partnership with a world leading player in the field of mAb-based point of care diagnostics," said Yves Cornellier, president and CEO, Alethia Biotherapeutics. "This agreement will continue to fuel our pipeline of biologic therapeutics and contribute to the positioning of Alethia as an emergent mAb development company."

This collaboration between Alethia and Biosite originated in 2007 in the field of ovarian cancer. During the course of this project, mAb libraries were generated against several ovarian cancer candidate markers identified using Alethia's discovery and validation platform. Using these antibodies, Biosite is pursuing studies to evaluate the diagnostic potential of Alethia's targets for earlier detection of ovarian cancer. In parallel, these mAbs are currently being evaluated in preclinical models of ovarian cancer as well as in other indications where the targets have been found to be over-expressed.

"We have already generated exciting pre-clinical results in animal models with mAbs generated against our lead target in ovarian cancer. Additional mAbs are currently under evaluation in other cancer indications as well as in our severe bone loss program," stated Mario Filion, executive VP and CSO. "Taken together, the results obtained so far with these high-quality mAbs has validated our discovery platform and underscored the highly-predictive nature of our approach to discover novel disease-specific therapeutic targets."

About Alethia Biotherapeutics Inc.

Alethia is a Montreal-based biotechnology company that was created in 2002 aimed at discovering tissue-specific disease targets and developing monoclonal antibodies for use as focused therapeutics in areas of unmet medical needs. Through the signature of several research partnerships, Alethia has access to monoclonal antibody generation technologies and downstream process development that contribute to quickening the development of therapeutics against the Company's most promising targets.

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