

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
02 November 2010

Horizon Discovery and Mirna Therapeutics to Test Activities of Tumor Suppressor MicroRNAs Using Patient-Relevant Cancer Cell Models

Horizon's X-MAN™ human cell lines will be used to define the effects of common mutations in cancer patients on the efficacy of Mirna's miRNA mimics.

Cambridge, UK, and Austin, TX, 2nd November 2010: Horizon Discovery (Horizon), a leading provider of research tools to support the development of personalized medicines, and Mirna Therapeutics (Mirna), a leading developer of microRNA (miRNA)-based therapeutics, announced today that they have entered into a collaboration agreement to test the impact of Mirna's proprietary miRNA mimics on a panel of Horizon's patient-relevant human isogenic cancer cell models.

One of the challenges that cancer researchers face in developing cancer therapeutics is that of predicting which patient sub-groups will respond to future drug treatments. Horizon's novel, genetically-defined X-MAN™ human cell lines (or "patients-in-a-test-tube") will be used to test the effects of common mutations in cancer patients on the efficacy of Mirna's miRNA mimics.

Commenting on the collaboration, Dr. Darrin M Disley, Chairman of Horizon Discovery Ltd said: *"Our Company's broad panel of over 250 different X-MAN cell lines are being used by academic and industry leaders to identify the effect of individual mutations on drug activity, patient responsiveness and resistance, and to successfully predict which patient sub-groups will respond to currently-available and future drug treatments. We are glad to now also add Mirna Therapeutics to this group"*.

Dr. Paul Lammers, President and CEO of Mirna, said: *"Working with Horizon's patient-relevant cancer cell models will increase the understanding of how our highly potent tumor suppressor miRNA mimics act upon human cancer cells characterized by different disease-causing mutations. Such knowledge will help us better define the optimal patient population for our future clinical trials."*

This project is funded in part by a Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Commercialization grant.

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Notes to Editors

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About Horizon Discovery <http://www.horizondiscovery.com/>

Horizon Discovery is a leading provider of research tools to support the development of personalized medicines. The Company's proprietary virally-mediated gene-engineering technology, **GENESIS™**, enables any endogenous gene in a human cell-line to be altered quickly, reliably and without introducing unwanted and confounding genotypes and/or phenotypes. Using GENESIS, Horizon Discovery has developed **X-MAN™** (Gene-**X**; **M**utant **A**nd **N**ormal) cell models, which are the world's first source of genetically-defined and patient-relevant human cell lines.

The Company's broad panel of over 250 different X-MAN cell lines, which have been referred to as "patients-in-a-test-tube," accurately model the disease-causing mutations in cancer patients. The X-MAN cell lines are being used by academic and industry leaders to identify the effect of individual mutations on drug activity, patient responsiveness and resistance, and to successfully predict which patient sub-groups will respond to currently-available and future drug treatments. This supports the design of shorter, more focused clinical trials, making it possible to identify the 'right drugs' for the 'right patients' based upon the unique genetic mutations that define their disease.

Founded in 2007 by Dr Chris Torrance and Professor Alberto Bardelli, and with headquarters in Cambridge, UK, the company builds on a long heritage in gene-engineering, cancer research and translational medicine, and draws on intellectual property and know-how from the University of Washington, the Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, the University of Minnesota and the Department of Oncological Sciences at the University of Torino Medical School. Over 150 scientific papers relating to the use of X-MAN cell line pairs generated using GENESIS have been published, and the technology has won numerous awards including; Medical Futures Innovation Award for Cancer (2008), UK iaward of the Year (2009), and East of England Killer Technology (2010).

About Mirna Therapeutics www.mirnarx.com

Mirna Therapeutics, Inc. (Mirna) is an Austin, US, based biotechnology company, founded in late 2007 as a spin-off of Asuragen Inc. Mirna is focused on the development of miRNA-directed therapeutics for the treatment of cancer and other diseases. Mirna's lead programs are in cancer and feature "MicroRNA Replacement Therapy" which involves introducing tumor suppressor microRNAs into cancer cells to induce cell death and tumor shrinkage. The Company has a substantial body of pending intellectual property around miRNAs developed by its own scientists as well as in-licensed from other institutions. Oncology-directed miRNAs include those that are key tumor suppressors in cancer, such as *miR-34* and *let-7* that have proven to block tumor growth in a number of different pre-clinical animal studies. Mirna has entered into an exclusive license agreement with Yale University for the therapeutic use of *let-7*, and its IP portfolio contains >300 miRNAs with applications in oncology and other diseases.