SIGNIA THERAPEUTICS ANNOUNCES ACHIEVEMENT OF KEY LICENSING AND PHASE 2 CLINICAL TRIAL MILESTONES

LYON, FRANCE (January 21, 2018) – Signia Therapeutics is an emerging spin-off company of VirPath laboratory/Université Claude Bernard Lyon (UCBL), that proposes an innovative and versatile platform for antiviral drugs discovery and repositioning or recycling, based on a global targeting of the host cell instead of specific viral determinants. The research strategy is based on the direct exploitation of clinical samples from infected patients and the characterization by NGS of relevant *in vivo* transcriptomic signatures of infections, in an innovative bedside-to-bench and bench-to-bedside approach. The Company's capabilities are well adapted to study the pathogenesis of respiratory acute infections and provides a breakthrough methodology for the identification and validation of effective and broad-spectrum antivirals.

Licensing and collaboration agreements

Signia Therapeutics has completed a major licence agreement with the Université Claude Bernard of Lyon (UCBL) and the Université Laval of Québec to obtain full exclusive international rights for three patents comprising eight repurposed marketed drugs as new antivirals against influenza viruses or the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) (WO2016146836; PCT/EP2017/058009; PCT/FR2017/052889). These new antivirals were identified and validated through a proprietary discovery platform, and are now part of the Company's pipeline. This key licensing agreement considerably strengthen and mature the company profile and open opportunities for partnerships and licensing discussions with Pharma groups.

Through a second related partnership agreement, the UCBL has granted full access to the VirPath's Laboratory infrastructure, where an important part of Signia Therapeutics' R&D activities takes place. This access to VirPath's library of viruses, *ex-vivo* and *in vivo* models of infection, BSL-2/BSL-3 facilities and other equipment represents an important asset towards a very cost efficient development and de-risking of the company's strategic growth activities.

Phase 2 clinical trial

Signia Therapeutics is also pleased to announce a further validation of its development strategy through the clinical evaluation of selected and repurposed drugs as new effective antivirals. A phase 2 clinical trial (FLUNEXT TRIAL PHRC #15-0442 - ClinicalTrials.gov identifier NCT03212716), financed by the French Health Ministry and investigated by Dr. Julien Poissy (CHRU Lille) and Dr. Manuel Rosa-Calatrava (VirPath, co-founder of Signia Therapeutics), started in December 2017 in

order to evaluate two of Signia Therapeutics' antiviral candidates against influenza viruses. This national multicentre double randomized clinical trial aims at assessing the effect of repurposed etilefrine (Effortil®), an adrenergic receptor agonist, and calcium modulator diltiazem (Tildiem®) in combinations with standard antiviral oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) for the treatment of severe influenza infections. The FLUNEXT trial aims at enrolling 300 severe Flu patients in 10 intensive care units, with final results expected in 2019. This key milestone confirms the strength of Signia Therapeutics' strategy, proprietary drug discovery platform, and growth plan.

About Signia Therapeutics

Signia Therapeutics proposes a breakthrough strategy to rapidly identify and efficiently repurpose already marketed at low cost, or to recycle unused drugs for a new antiviral indication against several human respiratory viruses. These antiviral candidates could be directly evaluated in phase 2 clinical trials and/or quickly available in response to any widespread outbreak for which the medical community and patients have limited options.

Acute respiratory tract infections (ARTI) represent the main cause of acute diseases worldwide and remain the number one cause of deaths in newborns and young children (nearly 2 million deaths/year). These respiratory pathogens represent a major public health issue and have a large socio-economic impact. Up to now, very few efficient vaccines or antiviral candidate treatments have been reported in the medical literature to widely fight against these respiratory pathogens, with the exception of those available against influenza viruses. In an effort to treat these various ARTIs, consumers spend $2-3 billion each year, yet new efficient antiviral strategies, less prone to the emergence of resistance, are necessary.

Signia Therapeutic's drug discovery platform has already demonstrated its significant potential with proofs-of-concept already established for several FDA-approved drugs that were validated for new anti-influenza and anti-MERS-CoV indications. Ongoing programs are currently conducted by Signia Therapeutics and dedicated to the selection and validation of new broad-spectrum antiviral compounds against human respiratory syncytial virus, human metapneumovirus and human coronaviruses.

With the advancement of its proprietary know-how, patented technology, drug portfolio and the constitution of its own database, Signia Therapeutics will be in an advantageous position to establish various forms of collaborations and partnerships with pharmaceutical and specialty pharma companies.

For more information

Michel Cousineau, President
+33 6 70314670 / +1 418-575-9709
michel.cousineau@signiatherapeutics.com
www.signiatherapeutics.com