Edinburgh, U.K. 5th May 2020

NuCana Announces Re-Opening of Global Phase III Study of Acelarin Plus Cisplatin in Patients with Biliary Tract Cancer (NuTide:121)

Edinburgh, United Kingdom, May 5, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – NuCana plc (NASDAQ: NCNA) announced it has re-commenced enrollment of new patients in NuTide:121, its ongoing global Phase III study of Acelarin (NUC-1031) plus cisplatin in patients with biliary tract cancer. The re-opening of NuTide:121 has begun in certain geographies, including Australia, Canada, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. NuCana will work closely with the clinicians involved in NuTide:121 to re-open all of the clinical sites to new patient enrollment as soon as practicable.

"We will continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but re-opening this study is important for patients with biliary tract cancer who need treatment" said Hugh S. Griffith, NuCana's Founder and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Griffith added "The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on the global healthcare delivery system and on cancer patient care, and it is vital that the development of new cancer treatments, such as Acelarin, is resumed as quickly as possible.

NuTide:121 is a global, multi-center, randomized Phase III study of Acelarin, NuCana's ProTide transformation of gemcitabine, that will enroll up to 828 patients in approximately 120 sites across North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Patients are being randomized 1:1 and treated with either a combination of Acelarin (725 mg/m^2) plus cisplatin (25 mg/m^2) or the current standard of care regimen, gemcitabine (1,000 mg/m^2) plus cisplatin (25 mg/m^2).

About NuCana plc

NuCana is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on significantly improving treatment outcomes for cancer patients by applying our ProTide technology to transform some of the most widely prescribed chemotherapy agents, nucleoside analogs, into more effective and safer medicines. While these conventional agents remain part of the standard of care for the treatment of many solid and hematological tumors, their efficacy is limited by cancer cell resistance mechanisms and they are often poorly tolerated. Utilizing our proprietary technology, we are developing new medicines, ProTides, designed to overcome key cancer resistance mechanisms and generate much higher concentrations of anti-cancer metabolites in cancer cells. Our most advanced ProTide candidates, Acelarin and NUC-3373, are new chemical entities derived from the nucleoside analogs gemcitabine and 5-fluorouracil, respectively, two widely used chemotherapy agents. Acelarin is currently being evaluated in four clinical studies, including a Phase III study for patients with biliary tract cancer, a Phase Ib study for patients with biliary tract cancer, a Phase II study for patients with platinum-resistant ovarian cancer and a Phase III study for patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer for which enrollment has been suspended. NUC-3373 is currently in a Phase I study for the potential treatment of a wide range of advanced solid tumors and a Phase Ib study for patients with previously treated metastatic colorectal cancer. Our third ProTide, NUC-7738, is a transformation of a novel nucleoside analog (3'-deoxyadenosine) and is in a Phase I study for patients with advanced solid tumors.

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Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may contain "forward-looking" statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are based on the beliefs and assumptions and on information currently available to management of NuCana plc (the "Company"). All statements other than statements of historical fact contained in this press release are forward-looking statements, including statements concerning the Company's planned and ongoing clinical studies for the Company's product candidates and the potential advantages of those product candidates, including Acelarin, NUC-3373 and NUC-7738; the initiation, enrollment, timing, progress, release of data from and results of those planned and ongoing clinical studies; the impact of COVID-19 on its preclinical studies, clinical studies, business, financial condition and results of operations; and the utility of prior non-clinical and clinical data in determining future clinical results. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "potential" or "continue" or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the Company's actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the risks and uncertainties set forth in the "Risk Factors" section of the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2019 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on March 10, 2020, and subsequent reports that the Company files with the SEC. Forward-looking statements represent the Company's beliefs and assumptions only as of the date of this press release. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, it cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Except as required by law, the Company assumes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements for any reason after the date of this press release to conform any of the forward-looking statements to actual results or to changes in its expectations.

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