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Philadelphia, PA, 21st April 2015

NuCana presents data on the Molecular Diagnostics programme for Acelarin at the AACR Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, PA, 21st April 2015: NuCana, the clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing and commercialising a portfolio of novel anti-cancer medicines, presented data today on the Molecular Diagnostics programme for its lead anti-cancer agent, Acelarin®, at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The studies established that the RNAscope® technology was able to detect and quantify biomarkers associated with a poor survival prognosis to gemcitabine therapy.

"This is important because Acelarin overcomes all three key resistance pathways associated with gemcitabine" said Hugh S. Griffith, the Co-Founder and CEO of NuCana. He added, *"the ability to quantify these important biomarkers will help select the patients who will derive the greatest benefit from Acelarin. Our goal is to optimise the clinical development strategy for Acelarin and NuCana's wider ProTide platform with robust Molecular Diagnostic assays".*

Essam Ghazaly, at Barts Cancer Institute in London commented: *"these data validate the use of the RNAscope for detection and quantification in vitro of the key biomarkers associated with gemcitabine resistance".*

The studies demonstrated that the RNAscope is a specific and sensitive assay to reliably measure the expression levels of hENT1, dCK and CDA, making it more reliable than qRT-PCR to assess and quantify these specific biomarkers.

Acelarin has completed a Phase I/II study in patients with advanced, rapidly progressing tumours and has achieved exceptional disease control rates, proving effective even against tumours refractory to gemcitabine. Global Phase III studies with Acelarin are currently being planned in ovarian, biliary and pancreatic cancers.

About Nucana

NuCana® is a rapidly growing, clinical stage biopharmaceutical company with a broad development portfolio of novel anti-cancer medicines. The Company's proprietary ProTide technology has the potential to set new benchmarks in efficacy and safety with its treatments that are specifically designed to overcome key cancer resistance mechanisms. Acelarin is NuCana's lead medicine and was the first ProTide to enter the clinic in October 2010. Acelarin achieved exceptional levels of disease control in a broad range of patients with advanced, rapidly progressing solid tumours. Global Phase III studies with Acelarin are currently being planned in ovarian, biliary and pancreatic cancers. Privately held, NuCana, which raised $57 million in a Series B financing in April 2014, is backed by world-leading investors including Sofinnova Partners, Sofinnova Ventures, Morningside Ventures, Alida Capital International and the Scottish Investment Bank.
For further information, please visit www.nucana.com

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Edinburgh, U.K., 21st April 2015

About ProTides

ProTides are pre-activated agents, with a protective phosphoramidate group that allows the anti-cancer medicine to bypass the key resistance mechanisms that limit the activity of many current chemotherapy drugs. Acelarin is the first-in-class of the ProTides in oncology, but it is a technology platform that can be applied to all nucleoside analogues. Gilead's ProTide, Sovaldi®, has shown the potential of this new class of medicines for anti-viral therapy.

About RNAScope

RNAscope is a multiplex nucleic acid in situ hybridisation technology developed by Advanced Cell Diagnostics that has the clear advantage to provide morphological context for interpretation of gene expression and not to be reliant on antibody.

For more information, please contact

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