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Mustang Bio Announces Expansion of CAR T Pipeline into CD20-Directed Immunotherapies

Entered license agreement with Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center for CD20-directed CAR T

Initiation of Phase 1/2 investigator-initiated trial in B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphomas planned for fourth quarter 2017

NEW YORK, Sept. 14, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Mustang Bio, Inc. ("Mustang") (NASDAQ:MBIO), a Fortress Biotech (NASDAQ:FBIO) Company focused on the development of novel immunotherapies based on proprietary chimeric antigen receptor engineered T cell (CAR T) technology, announced the expansion of its pipeline of CAR T therapies into CD20-directed immunotherapies.

Mustang has entered into an exclusive, worldwide licensing agreement with Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center ("Fred Hutch") for the use of a CAR T therapy related to autologous T cells engineered to express a CD20-specific chimeric antigen receptor ("CD20 Technology"). The CAR T was developed in the laboratory of Oliver Press, M.D., Ph.D., and Brian Till, M.D., in Fred Hutch's Clinical Research Division.

As part of the transaction, Mustang entered into an investigator-initiated clinical trial agreement to provide partial funding for a Phase 1/2 clinical trial at Fred Hutch evaluating the safety and efficacy of the CD20 Technology in patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphomas. The trial is expected to initiate in the fourth quarter of 2017, and will be led by principal investigator Mazyar Shadman, M.D., Assistant Member of Fred Hutch's Clinical Research Division.

Manuel Litchman, M.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Mustang, said, "We are thrilled to announce this partnership opportunity that will enable us to expand our CAR T pipeline into CD20-directed immunotherapies targeting B-cell malignancies. We look forward to working with the team at Fred Hutch to rapidly advance the promising CD20 Technology to patients in need. With the execution of this agreement, Mustang is now evaluating six novel CAR Ts in clinical and preclinical trials, and we remain focused on expanding our pipeline of compelling CAR T therapies."

About Mustang Bio

Mustang Bio, Inc., a subsidiary of Fortress Biotech, Inc., is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel cancer immunotherapy products designed to leverage the patient's own immune system to eliminate cancer cells. Mustang aims to acquire rights to these technologies by licensing or otherwise acquiring an ownership interest, funding research and development, and outlicensing or bringing the technologies to market. Mustang has partnered with the City of Hope National Medical Center ("COH") and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in the development of proprietary chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) engineered T cell (CAR T) therapies across many cancers. Mustang's lead programs are in Phase 1 clinical trials at COH: MB-101 for the treatment of brain cancer and MB-102 as a therapeutic agent in acute myeloid leukemia. Mustang is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and files periodic reports with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. For more information, visit www.mustangbio.com.

About Fortress Biotech

Fortress Biotech, Inc. ("Fortress") is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to acquiring, developing and commercializing novel pharmaceutical and biotechnology products. Fortress develops and commercializes products both within Fortress and through certain of its subsidiary companies, also known as Fortress Companies. In addition to its internal development programs, Fortress leverages its biopharmaceutical business expertise and drug development capabilities and provides funding and management services to help the Fortress Companies achieve their goals. Fortress and the Fortress Companies may seek licensing arrangements, acquisitions, partnerships, joint ventures and/or public and private financings to accelerate and provide additional funding to support their research and development programs. For more information, visit www.fortressbiotech.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, each as amended. Such statements include, but are not limited to, any statements relating to our growth strategy and product development programs and any other statements that are not historical facts. Forward-looking statements are based on management's current expectations and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could negatively affect our business, operating results, financial condition and stock value. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those currently anticipated include: risks relating to our growth strategy; our ability to obtain, perform under and maintain financing and strategic agreements and relationships; risks relating to the results of research and development activities; risks relating to the timing of starting and completing clinical trials; uncertainties relating to preclinical and clinical testing; our dependence on third-party suppliers; our ability to attract, integrate and retain key personnel; the early stage of products under development; our need for substantial additional funds; government regulation; patent and intellectual property matters; competition; as well as other risks described in our SEC filings. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in our expectations or any changes in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based, except as required by law.

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