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Sutro Biopharma to Collaborate With Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to Produce Bispecific Antibodies for the Treatment of Neuroblastoma

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- Sutro Biopharma, a biopharmaceutical company developing a new generation of protein therapeutics, including next-generation antibody drug conjugates and bispecific antibodies, today announced that it has entered into a collaboration agreement with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to use Sutro's proprietary cell-free protein synthesis technology to produce bispecific antibodies that were discovered by Memorial Sloan-Kettering for the treatment of neuroblastoma in children.

"Neuroblastoma is the most common extra-cranial solid tumor in children, and long-term survival for children with advanced disease diagnosed after 18 months of age is unsatisfactory despite aggressive chemotherapy," said Trevor Hallam, Ph.D., chief scientific officer of Sutro. "Sutro's technology allows the generation, and importantly, the rapid screening of a large number of variations of bispecific antibodies. This will enable us to take bispecific antibodies with the desired characteristics faster into the clinic and potentially provide pediatric neuroblastoma patients with a much needed effective treatment option to combat this disease."

Under the collaborative agreement Sutro will use its cell free protein synthesis technology to produce four different bispecific antibodies discovered by Memorial Sloan-Kettering. These antibodies will be directed against CD3 on T-cells and, as the second target, against the ganglioside GD2, which is expressed on the surface of human neuroblastoma cells, as well as in melanoma and osteosarcoma. Nai-Kong V. Cheung, M.D., Ph.D., head of Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Neuroblastoma program, will use preclinical models to test the bispecific antibodies manufactured by Sutro.

Dr. Cheung added, "We and others have previously shown that the use of an anti-CD3 and anti-GD2 bispecific antibody has a strong scientific rationale, and anti-GD2 monoclonal antibodies targeting the ganglioside GD2 have demonstrated efficacy in clinical trials in pediatric neuroblastoma. We hope that the use of Sutro's technology will facilitate a more rapid, high-throughput optimization of these bispecific antibodies in the future, and allow us to investigate novel variants of these molecules quickly before bringing the winner to the clinic."

About Sutro Biopharma

Sutro Biopharma, located in South San Francisco, is developing a new generation of antibody drug conjugate therapeutics and bifunctional antibody-based therapeutics for targeted cancer therapies. These therapeutics will significantly extend the clinical impact of

current oncology therapeutic approaches and are beyond what can be envisioned with current, cell-based expression technologies. Sutro's biochemical synthesis technology, which underpins these therapeutics, allows the rapid and systematic exploration of many protein drug variants to identify drug candidates. Once the product candidates are identified, production can be rapidly and predictably scaled up to commercial levels. Sutro has established a Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) facility for the production of clinical supplies of materials using its biochemical protein synthesis platform. Sutro has formed multiple partnerships with biopharma companies utilizing its technology, including a collaboration with Celgene Corporation to design and develop novel antibody drug conjugates and bispecific antibodies as well as to manufacture a proprietary Celgene antibody.

For more information, visit www.sutrobio.com.

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