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Opus Enters Strategic Collaboration with Resilience for AAV-based Gene Therapy Development and Manufacturing for Inherited Retinal Diseases

Opus' first-in-human trials to begin in 2022

RALEIGH, N.C., April 11, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Opus Genetics, a patient-focused gene therapy company developing treatments for inherited retinal diseases, today announced a strategic manufacturing services agreement with National Resilience, Inc. (Resilience), a technology-focused biomanufacturing company dedicated to broadening access to complex medicines, to support the development and manufacturing of Opus' pipeline.

Resilience will provide process and analytical development, quality control testing, and GMP manufacturing services for IND-enabling toxicology and first-in-human material for Opus' adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector-based gene therapies for inherited retinal diseases (IRD) for use in both preclinical studies, and future clinical trials in the U.S. The work will be conducted at Resilience's facilities in Waltham, Mass., and Research Triangle Park, N.C.

"Resilience embraces our innovative model to create a clinical manufacturing infrastructure that's scaled to address rare inherited retinal diseases, and we are pleased to enter into this strategic collaboration," said Ben Yerxa, Ph.D., CEO of the Foundation Fighting Blindness and the Retinal Degeneration Fund, and acting CEO of Opus. "Leveraging Resilience's expertise puts Opus in the best position to efficiently advance our AAV-based gene therapies into the clinic and toward the patients who need them."

"Helping Opus advance their gene therapies for inherited retinal diseases to the clinic will hopefully lead to new treatments for underserved patients," said Rahul Singhvi, ScD, Chief Executive Officer of Resilience. "We're excited to partner with Opus on process development and manufacturing at this pivotal time for the company."

Opus's lead program, OPGx-001, is designed to address mutations in the LCA5 gene, which encodes the lebercilin protein. Opus anticipates filing an IND and entering first-in-human trials with OPGx-001 this year. Opus' earlier stage programs include OPGx-002, to restore protein expression and halting functional deterioration in patients with retinal dystrophy caused by mutations in the retinal dehydrogenase (RDH12) gene, and OPGx-003, a gene augmentation therapy designed to halt functional deterioration in pediatric patients with retinal degenerative disease caused by mutations in the nicotinamide mononucleotide adenylyltransferase 1 (NMNAT1) gene.

About Opus Genetics
Opus Genetics is a groundbreaking gene therapy company for inherited retinal diseases with a unique model and purpose. Backed by Foundation Fighting Blindness's venture arm, the RD Fund, Opus combines unparalleled insight and commitment to patient need with wholly owned programs in numerous retinal diseases. Its AAV-based gene therapy portfolio tackles some of the most neglected forms of inherited blindness while creating novel manufacturing scale and efficiencies. Based in Raleigh, N.C., the company leverages knowledge of the best science and the expertise of pioneers in ocular gene therapy to transparently drive transformative treatments to patients. For more information, visit www.opusgenetics.com.

Media Contact:
Heather Anderson
919-827-5539
handerson@6degreespr.com

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