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Emmaus Life Sciences Announces First Purchase Order from its Partnership with taiba Healthcare

Partnership Expands Patient Access for Sickle Cell Disease Treatment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regions

TORRANCE, Calif., Dec. 31, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- **Emmaus Life Sciences, Inc. (OTCQB: EMMA)**, a leader in sickle cell disease treatment, today reported that it received the initial purchase order relating to taiba Healthcare's early access program for Endari® (L-glutamine oral powder) in Oman. Based in the Sultanate of Oman, taiba is a leading healthcare marketing, distribution and retail pharmacy group focused on the Gulf Cooperation Countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman). This region represents a large market for Endari, with Saudi Arabia alone having more patients afflicted with sickle cell disease than in the United States.

Dr. Yutaka Niihara, M.D., M.P.H., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Emmaus commented, "we are very pleased to have received this initial purchase order attributable to our partnership with taiba and, together, look forward to serving the needs of sickle cell disease patients and their healthcare providers throughout the very important MENA region."

"This is an exciting milestone for Emmaus Life Sciences and the culmination of the commitment made to sickle cell disease patients not only in the United States, but worldwide. Oman is a key partner country and a valued ally in the treatment of SCD patients," added George Sekulich, Senior Vice President of Global Commercialization.

About Emmaus Life Sciences
Emmaus Life Sciences, Inc. is a commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery, development, marketing and sale of innovative treatments and therapies, including those in the rare and orphan disease categories. For more information, please visit www.emmauslifesciences.com.

About Endari® (L-glutamine oral powder)
Indication - Endari is indicated to reduce the acute complications of sickle cell disease in adult and pediatric patients five years of age and older.

Important Safety Information - The most common adverse reactions (incidence >10 percent) in clinical studies were constipation, nausea, headache, abdominal pain, cough, pain in extremities, back pain, and chest pain.

Adverse reactions leading to treatment discontinuation included one case each of

hypersplenism, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, burning sensation, and hot flash.

The safety and efficacy of Endari in pediatric patients with sickle cell disease younger than five years of age has not been established.

For more information, please see full Prescribing Information of Endari at: www.ENDARIrx.com/PI.

About Sickle Cell Disease

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder characterized by the production of an altered form of hemoglobin which polymerizes and becomes fibrous, causing red blood cells to become rigid and change form so that they appear sickle shaped instead of soft and rounded. Patients with sickle cell disease suffer from debilitating episodes of sickle cell crises, which occur when the rigid, adhesive and inflexible red blood cells occlude blood vessels. Sickle cell crises cause excruciating pain as a result of insufficient oxygen being delivered to tissue, referred to as tissue ischemia, and inflammation. These events may lead to organ damage, stroke, pulmonary complications, skin ulceration, infection and a variety of other adverse outcomes. Sickle cell disease is a significant unmet medical need, affecting approximately one hundred thousand patients in the U.S. and millions worldwide, the majority of which are of African descent. An estimated 1-in-365 African American children are born with sickle cell disease.

Forward-looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended, including statements regarding the market potential for Endari and timing of future Endari sales. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties which change over time, including the possibility that we may experience delays in the roll-out of early access programs in the MENA region and uncertainties related to the company's working capital and ability to carry on its existing operations and obtain needed financing and other factors previously disclosed in the company's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and actual results may differ materially. Such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and the company assumes no duty to update them.

Company Contact:
Emmaus Life Sciences, Inc.
Joseph (Jay) C. Sherwood III
Chief Financial Officer
(310) 214-0065, Ext. 3005
jsherwood@emmauslifesciences.com

Investor Relations Contact:
LifeSci Advisors
Bruce Mackle
(929) 469-3859
bmackle@lifesciadvisors.com

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