

CHILWORTH, UK  
4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2009

## **KARUS ANNOUNCES KTP AWARD WITH KING'S COLLEGE LONDON**

Innovative pharmaceutical company Karus Therapeutics Ltd has today announced the successful receipt of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) award with King's College London. The award will be used to support a collaborative program at the internationally renowned St John's Institute of Dermatology at Guy's Hospital under the joint supervision of the Head of Clinical Immunodermatology, Dr Richard Groves, and Dr Stephen Shuttleworth, Chief Scientific Officer of Karus Therapeutics. The KTP award will provide three years research and development support to Karus's dermatology program.

The KTP scheme is Europe's leading programme helping businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK knowledge base. This is achieved through the forming of a Partnership between a business and an academic institution, enabling the business to access important skills and expertise.

"We have been eager to establish a translational research programme with Dr Groves and are delighted to have received the KTP award to facilitate the development of cutting-edge medicines for the treatment of psoriasis and other inflammatory skin disorders," said Dr Shuttleworth. "Histone Deacetylase (HDAC) has recently emerged as an important drug target in psoriasis; we anticipate that Karus' expertise in novel HDAC inhibitor development coupled with the wealth of clinical experience that Richard and his group bring will lead to an exciting and highly successful collaboration."

Karus is a development-stage pharmaceutical company with a mission to design, develop and partner innovative, best-in-class, molecular-targeted, small-molecule drugs to treat inflammation, immune disease and cancer. The company's primary focus is the development of proprietary drugs that target epigenetic mechanisms and lipid kinase signaling. The outstanding potency and excellent tolerability of Karus's HDAC inhibitors (HDI) represent an innovative approach to this important drug target and brings the promise of a new gold-standard in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and cancer.

Karus comprises a seasoned commercial and scientific team, with unrivalled experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector. This expertise has enabled the company to remain focused and to make efficient progress in its development programs. The company was formed in July 2005 to develop a new family of highly potent, optimized HDAC inhibitors that were identified at the University of Southampton and Cancer Research UK.

King's College London is one of England's oldest and most prestigious university institutions: a multi-faculty research-led university college based in the heart of London with over 19,700 students, of whom more than 6,200 are postgraduates. It is ranked as one of the world's top 25 universities. The St John's Institute of Dermatology is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for the treatment, research and teaching of diseases of the skin. The immunodermatology group has interests in various aspects of skin immunology including keratinocyte cytokine biology, psoriasis, Langerhans cell biology and the pathogenesis and diagnosis of immunologically-mediated blistering diseases of the skin.

- ENDS -

Contact: Simon Kerry, CEO ([s.kerry@karustherapeutics.com](mailto:s.kerry@karustherapeutics.com))

Further information: <http://www.karustherapeutics.com>