



**PRESS RELEASE
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**KARUS THERAPEUTICS AND QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
ANNOUNCE PI3 KINASE COLLABORATION**

Chilworth, UK – 23 September 2009: Karus Therapeutics Ltd, a company developing small molecule drugs to treat cancer and inflammation, has today announced that it has signed an agreement to collaborate with Professor Bart Vanhaesebroeck, at Queen Mary, University of London. Prof. Vanhaesebroeck is Centre Lead of the RAE 4-star rated Cell Signalling Laboratory. As part of the collaboration, Karus and Professor Vanhaesebroeck will be working to develop new small molecule inhibitors of selected isoforms of phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3K).

The collaboration will bring Professor Vanhaesebroeck's unrivalled knowledge of the biology of certain members of the PI3K family to Karus's small molecule PI3K inhibitor program. The goal of the collaboration will be to develop best-in-class PI3K inhibitors with a unique selectivity profile.

PI3Ks are a family of related intracellular signal transducer enzymes and molecules that act as inhibitors of PI3K have major potential in the treatment of chronic human diseases such as inflammatory disease and cancer. The importance of PI3K as a disease target is reflected in the number of clinical trials currently being sponsored by leading pharmaceutical companies.

"We are looking forward to collaborating with Bart and his team at Queen Mary with the aim of identifying new drugs with major clinical and commercial potential," said Dr Simon Kerry, Chief Executive Officer of Karus Therapeutics. "PI3K inhibition has emerged as an important therapeutic strategy for the treatment of cancer and inflammatory diseases, and Bart is an acknowledged world leader in the biology of this enzyme family," added Stephen Shuttleworth, Chief Scientific Officer of Karus Therapeutics. "Our collaboration is focused on the characterization and development of a novel class of PI3K inhibitors and his insights will have a major impact on this significant program within our portfolio".

"We are delighted to have signed this agreement with Karus Therapeutics" added Laura Camurri, Technology Transfer manager at Queen Mary Innovation Ltd, "Karus is an innovative pharmaceutical company with significant long-term potential and we look forward to working together to design and develop best-in-class new treatments for cancer and inflammation".

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Notes to Editors

About Karus Therapeutics

Karus Therapeutics, founded in 2006, is a development-stage pharmaceutical company focused on the development and partnering of innovative, best-in-class, molecular-targeted, small-molecule drugs to treat cancer and inflammation. The Company's primary focus is the development of proprietary drugs which have best-in-class potential, set apart from competing drug programs by their superior

potency and tolerability. Karus's development programs include gold-standard HDAC inhibitors targeting cancer and inflammation, and the Company is also fast-tracking a research program for a candidate which targets the lipid kinase signalling pathway (PI3 Kinase). Karus is a private company based in Chilworth, near Southampton, UK.

Further information: www.karustherapeutics.com

About Queen Mary, University of London

Queen Mary, University of London is one of the UK's leading research-focused higher education institutions with some 15,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Amongst the largest of the colleges of the University of London, Queen Mary's 3,000 staff deliver world class degree programmes and research across 21 academic departments and institutes, within three sectors: Science and Engineering; Humanities, Social Sciences and Laws; and the School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Queen Mary is ranked 11th in the UK according to the *Guardian* analysis of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, and has been described as 'the biggest star among the research-intensive institutions' by the *Times Higher Education*.

The College has a strong international reputation, with around 20 per cent of students coming from over 100 countries.

Queen Mary has an annual turnover of £220 million, research income worth £61 million, and generates employment and output worth £600 million to the UK economy each year.

Queen Mary, as a member of the 1994 Group of research-focused universities, has made a strategic commitment to the highest quality of research, but also to the best possible educational, cultural and social experience for its students. The College is unique amongst London's universities in being able to offer a completely integrated residential campus, with a 2,000-bed award-winning Student Village on its Mile End campus.

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