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San Diego, CA, 10th April 2014

NuCana presents exceptional data for anti-cancer agent, Acelarin, at the AACR Annual Meeting.

San Diego, CA, 10th April 2014: NuCana presented at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) annual meeting in San Diego CA exceptional data for their lead anti-cancer agent, Acelarin. Patients with advanced, rapidly progressing solid tumours were treated in a Phase I study (ProGem 1) with Acelarin and significant disease control has been achieved.

Acelarin is a ProTide, specifically designed to overcome the key resistance mechanisms associated with nucleoside analogues, the established standards of care for many solid tumours. These data presented at AACR show clearly that Acelarin achieves very high intracellular levels of the nucleotide, the active anti-cancer component of any nucleoside analogue, and does so, independently of nucleoside transporters, kinase activation and remains unaffected by deamination.

Chris McGuigan, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Cardiff University and inventor of the ProTide technology commented "these data confirm the fact that ProTides can bypass the key cancer resistance pathways associated with nucleoside analogues. This is a vital breakthrough for cancer treatments".

In formal toxicology studies, Acelarin was very well tolerated and was given at 4x the maximum tolerated dose of gemcitabine. Acelarin generated 13x higher levels of the active nucleotide and reached the Cmax at 30 minutes from end of infusion. Moreover, Acelarin's half-life was 5 times greater than that of gemcitabine.

Essam Ghazaly, from Barts Cancer Institute in London stated "the plasma and intracellular pharmacokinetic data clearly show the overall superior properties of Acelarin compared with the conventional nucleoside analogues being prescribed".

Acelarin is completing a Phase I study (ProGem 1) in patients with advanced, rapidly progressing tumours and has achieved exceptional disease control rates, proving effective even against tumours refractory to gemcitabine.

"Our goal is to develop superior anti-cancer medicines that will greatly improve patient outcomes" commented Hugh Griffith, Co-Founder and CEO of NuCana. He added, "The first of many compounds to reach the clinic from our ProTide platform, Acelarin already has shown strong anti-cancer activity. We believe that our ProTides have the potential to transform the therapeutic landscape in oncology."

About NuCana

NuCana is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing and commercialising a range of exciting, new anti-cancer medicines. With its next generation of anti-cancer agents (nucleotide analogues), NuCana is setting new benchmarks for innovative therapeutic treatments. The state-of-the-art ProTide technology transforms existing therapies into better and safer medicines that overcome key cancer resistance mechanisms. For more information, please visit: www.nucana.com

About ProTides

The distinctive feature of a ProTide is the ability to bypass the key cancer cell resistance pathways and generate high levels of the active agents inside the cancer cells. The fundamental aspect of the ProTide technology platform is the addition of a phosphoramidate moiety onto a nucleoside analogue scaffold. The ProTide approach was invented by Professor Chris McGuigan of Cardiff University. NuCana support a team of medicinal chemists, under the leadership of Professor McGuigan, dedicated to the design and selection of additional ProTides for NuCana's portfolio. NuCana's vision is to replace all commonly used nucleoside analogue-based cancer treatments with more active and safer ProTides.



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About AACR

AACR is the world's first and largest professional organisation focused on advancing cancer research. AACR membership includes over 34,000 laboratory, researchers; clinicians; other health care professionals; and anti-cancer advocates from over 90 countries. AACR canvases the full spectrum of expertise of the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, biology, diagnosis and treatment of cancer by annually convening more than 20 conferences and educational workshops, the largest of which is the AACR Annual Meeting with more than 17,000 attendees.