



## **CURTANA ADDS INDUSTRY LUMINARIES TO SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**

SAN DIEGO, CA – November 27, 2013 – Curtana Pharmaceuticals, a new privately-held, preclinical stage pharmaceutical company headquartered in San Diego, has added Brent A. Reynolds, Ph.D. and Jeremy Rich, M.D. to its scientific advisory board, joining Santosh Kesari, M.D., Ph.D. and Wolf Wrasidlo, Ph.D.

Dr. Reynolds is the Director of the Neural Stem Cell Lab in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Florida. Professor Reynolds holds 18 patents related to neural stem cells and his lab is currently focused on the development of stem cell specific assays, *in situ* manipulation of neural stem cells and understanding the role that solid tissue cancer stem cells play in tumor initiation and metastasis.

“Curtana’s vision, leadership and therapeutic approach to treating brain cancers is unparalleled,” said Brent A. Reynolds, Ph.D. “The founder’s discovery of a target that is highly expressed in brain tumors, and, importantly, a target that appears to play a key role in the cells that are responsible for driving tumor growth and treatment resistance, represents a major breakthrough.”

Dr. Rich is the Chair of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute’s Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and is a renowned researcher who investigates cancer stem cells in brain tumors and novel treatments aimed at slowing brain tumor growth.

“A main issue that we face in cancer research is that current treatments have evolved little over the last two decades and do not provide a substantial improvement in survival rates for high-grade brain tumors,” stated Jeremy Rich, M.D. “We need to fundamentally shift our approach. I believe that Curtana’s focus on inhibiting OLIG2 has the potential to disrupt uncontrolled tumor growth and provide a substantial leap forward in improving outcomes for patients with brain cancer.”

Curtana is targeting the transcription factor OLIG2, which is critical in tumorigenesis and regulates the survival and expansion of glioblastoma (GBM). Typically, OLIG2 is not active in normal brain tissue and is not found in normal tissues outside the central nervous system. However, it is highly expressed in all diffuse gliomas and nearly 100% of glioma cancer stem cells (CSCs) that are positive for the CD133 stem cell marker. The relevance for therapy derives



from the finding that over-expression of OLIG2 drives tumorigenesis and promotes resistance to chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

“The participation of Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Rich on our Scientific Advisory Board will be instrumental in advancing our therapeutic program to the clinic,” stated Gregory Stein, M.D., M.B.A., Chief Executive Officer, Curtana Pharmaceuticals. “Further, the interest of these world class scientists on our SAB reflects the progress we’re making in the development of OLIG2 inhibitors for cancer therapy.”

GBM is the most common and most aggressive of the malignant primary brain tumors in adults and is one of a group of tumors referred to as gliomas. Incidence in the U.S. is approximately 10,000 cases per year. The conventional therapeutic approach for GBM often includes surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy, which targets the tumor bulk, but has limited effect on the cancer stem cells. A significant unmet clinical need remains in the GBM market as the median survival is less than 15 months and five-year survival rate is less than 10%.

### **About Curtana Pharmaceuticals**

Curtana Pharmaceuticals, founded in 2013, is a privately held, preclinical-stage pharmaceutical company headquartered in San Diego, California. The company focuses on the development of novel, first-in-class, small molecule therapeutics targeting cancer stem cells in the central nervous system for the treatment of glioblastoma and other cancers. Curtana’s OLIG2 inhibitors will be the only adjuvant treatment for nearly all gliomas, including high-grade glioblastomas, which specifically targets the cancer stem cells and is a potent radiosensitizer. For more information, visit [www.curtanapharma.com](http://www.curtanapharma.com).

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