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Dicerna and PBL Sign Agreement for Baulcombe & Hamilton RNAi patents

WATERTOWN, Mass. & Norwich, UK, April, 9, 2013 – Dicerna Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Dicerna), a second generation RNA interference (RNAi) company focused on developing novel therapeutics utilizing its proprietary Dicer Substrate siRNA (DsiRNA) Technology™ and EnCore™ delivery system, and [Plant Bioscience Limited](#) (PBL), today announced that they have entered an agreement for a non-exclusive licence to PBL's RNAi intellectual property estate. PBL will grant Dicerna a world-wide, non-exclusive license to the Baulcombe patents (U.S. Patent Nos. 8,097,710; 8,258,285; 8,299,235 and 8,263,569) for use in the field of human therapeutics. Financial terms were not disclosed.

“We are pleased to add the Baulcombe patents to our expanding intellectual property portfolio,” said Douglas M. Fambrough, CEO of Dicerna. “We have continued to innovate and advance our DsiRNA and EnCore technologies, allowing us to develop innovative programs against previously undruggable targets. Dicerna's programs, along with those of our partners, means we are moving forward on multiple fronts to bring new options to patients via well-known and powerful mechanisms.”

PBL's Managing Director, Dr. Jan Chojecki, stated, “We are delighted to add Dicerna as our partner in the development of RNAi therapeutics. Dicerna is currently advancing an exciting RNAi-based therapeutic oncology candidate into the development stage. This agreement further endorses the strength of our patent estate in the RNAi field and we look forward to working with other partners in therapeutic applications, as well as in research reagents, diagnostics and of course agricultural applications of this pivotal technology.”

U.S. Patent Nos. 8,097,710; 8,258,285; 8,299,235 and 8,263,569 issued in 2012, and have claims for methods and compositions for using short RNA as silencing agents. The patents are derived from the work of Prof. David Baulcombe and Dr. Andrew Hamilton, at The Sainsbury Laboratory (Norwich, UK).

About PBL

Plant Bioscience Limited (PBL) www.pbltechnology.com is a technology development and intellectual property management company owned in equal parts by The Sainsbury Laboratory www.tsl.ac.uk, the John Innes Centre www.jic.ac.uk and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council www.bbsrc.ac.uk. PBL promotes the development and commercial uptake of academic research results for public use and benefit and is specialised in life sciences, and in particular plants, agriculture, food and microbial science. PBL is the owner of the patent rights created at The Sainsbury Laboratory by the pioneering contributions of Professor Sir David Baulcombe and Dr Andrew Hamilton to the field of RNA interference. PBL's issued patents in this IP estate include: US 6,753,139 (Detection of Gene Silencing in Plants); US 7,704,688 (Detection of Gene Silencing in Mammals); and U.S. Patent Nos. 8,097,710; 8,258,285; 8,299,235, 8,263,569 and 8,349,607, with claims covering methods of inducing gene silencing in organisms, using short RNA molecules, as well as the actual short RNA molecules that cause gene silencing.

About The Sainsbury Laboratory

The Sainsbury Laboratory (TSL) www.tsl.ac.uk is a world-leading research centre located in Norwich, UK, focusing on making fundamental discoveries about plants and how they interact with microbes. Professor Sir David Baulcombe is now Regius Professor of Botany and Royal Society Research Professor at The University of Cambridge. Dr Andrew Hamilton is now at The University of Glasgow, in the Division of Cancer Sciences and Molecular Pathology.

About Dicerna Pharmaceuticals

Dicerna is a private, venture-backed biopharmaceutical company harnessing RNA interference (RNAi) to develop breakthrough, targeted cancer therapeutics. Utilizing its Dicer Substrate Technology™ platform and EnCore™ lipid nanoparticle delivery technology, Dicerna is developing a pipeline of programs to reach previously undruggable intracellular disease targets.

The initial program Dicerna will bring to the clinic targets hepatocellular carcinoma, a disease of significant worldwide unmet need, with a DsiRNA targeting the MYC oncogene and delivered via EnCore. The company has collaborations and major alliances with global pharmaceutical companies and will continue to build on this momentum to advance its research and development efforts. Dicerna is based in Watertown, Massachusetts. For more information, please visit www.dicerna.com.