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News Release

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First U.S. patent for PlantForm technology

'Important milestone' demonstrates capability of company's manufacturing platform

GUELPH, Ont., Aug. 1, 2013—PlantForm's innovative, plant-produced antidote to cobra toxin has been issued a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Patent # 8,465,742, "Anti-Cobra Toxin Antibody Fragments and Method of Producing a V_HH Library", has a term until December 2029.

"This patent is an important milestone for PlantForm – it is the first issued patent for an antibody drug candidate produced using our plant-based manufacturing technology," said Dr. Don Stewart, President and CEO. "It is a tangible asset that adds value to the company, and it demonstrates the capability of our platform technology, which has tremendous potential to produce a broad range of antibody and protein drugs and vaccines."

The patent is for an invention by **Dr. J. Christopher Hall**, PlantForm's Chief Scientific Officer; University of Guelph PhD student Gabrielle Richard; and Dr. Michael D. McLean, PlantForm's Director Research. Dr. Hall is a professor in the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Sciences and **Canada Research Chair in Recombinant Antibody Technology**. His team produced the cobra toxin antibody in plants and demonstrated the therapeutic potential in a laboratory model with mice.

Snakebite is a serious global public health problem, especially in tropical and sub-tropical countries. The Thai cobra (*Naja kaouthia*) is considered the most venomous and dangerous snake in Southeast Asia, responsible for the most deaths and disease from snakebite. Currently, the only specific treatment is with antivenom produced in animals, usually a horse, with significant potential for adverse events to the patient. The antibody also has important potential applications as a diagnostic for the toxin, which has been used as an illegal performance-enhancing agent in horse racing.

PlantForm licenses its technology from the **University of Guelph**. Patent applications have been submitted in two additional areas to date:

- Core platform technologies: **"**Vectors and Methods for Enhancing Recombinant Protein Expression in Plants" and "Methods of Improving the Therapeutic Efficacy and Utility of Antibody Fragments"
- Biosimilar Herceptin® manufacturing process: "Production of HER Receptor Antibodies in Plants"

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PlantForm Corporation's mission is to provide low-cost biologic drugs to help people fight cancer and other critical conditions. Biosimilar versions of three antibody drugs for cancer are in development, as are antibodies for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus. PlantForm is also developing an enzyme to protect against nerve agent exposure under contract with the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Projected revenue is more than $120 million by 2017.

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