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PlantForm names Craig Binnie VP of Drug Development

New position heralds next phase of company growth in preparation for clinical trials of first biosimilar antibody drug candidate

GUELPH, Ont., February 18, 2014—PlantForm Corporation is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Craig Binnie as Vice-President of Drug Development, effective immediately.

Binnie will oversee GMP manufacturing of PlantForm’s first drug candidate, biosimilar trastuzumab, for characterization studies and preclinical and clinical trials. He will establish and lead PlantForm’s product development group, support regulatory submissions, and manage the advancement of additional biosimilar drug candidates.

“Craig’s expertise and experience will be integral to the company’s growth and development as we prepare for clinical trials of our first antibody drug,” said President and CEO Dr. Don Stewart. “We are pleased to welcome him to our team as we take our next steps towards market entry.”

“I look forward to playing a central role as PlantForm transitions to a clinical-stage company,” Binnie said. “We believe the plant-based manufacturing platform will be a game-changer for antibody drug production.”

Binnie has more than 20 years experience in the design and management of clinical drug development programs. He previously held leadership roles in the R&D groups of Cangene Corporation and Pfizer (UK) Ltd., and led drug development programs for Induce Biologics Inc., Trillium Therapeutics, Inc., Transition Therapeutics, Inc. and YM Biosciences Inc. Binnie has provided manufacturing support for numerous regulatory submissions in Canada, the United States and Europe. He has a PhD from the University of Glasgow, and performed post-doctoral studies at Harvard University and the University of Glasgow before entering the industry.

An efficacy study in mice has shown that PlantForm’s biosimilar trastuzumab antibody drug is as effective as Roche’s Herceptin® in reducing the size and growth rate of breast cancer tumours. PlantForm expects to launch its biosimilar trastuzumab, in partnership with a pharmaceutical company, in world markets in 2017.

PlantForm recently received a $2-million equity investment from U.K.-based Atlantic Assets Trust. The company’s pipeline includes three biosimilar (generic) monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of cancer, six innovator antibodies for HIV/AIDS, and a novel protein drug designed to protect against nerve agent exposure. Projected revenue is more than $120 million by 2017.

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