Silence Therapeutics and AstraZeneca Extend siRNA Development Collaboration

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LONDON, July 14 /PRNewswire/ -- Silence Therapeutics plc (AIM: SLN) ("Silence" or the "Company") is pleased to announce a one-year extension of its ongoing research and development collaboration with AstraZeneca. Under the terms of the agreement, which has progressed well since being signed in July 2007, Silence and AstraZeneca are jointly collaborating in the identification and optimization of five novel siRNA therapeutic molecules addressing respiratory and oncology indications.

Silence's team interacts closely with several of AstraZeneca's operational units including Medimmune in the US and AstraZeneca teams in Sweden, the UK and China to progress the development of the siRNA molecules identified as a result of the collaboration. Under the terms of the agreement, AstraZeneca will retain full responsibility for clinical development and commercialization of the siRNA molecules. As announced previously, in addition to the initial 7.5 million pounds Sterling access fee paid to Silence in July 2007, the collaboration may generate up to 200 million pounds in fees and milestone payments plus royalties on product sales. The terms of this collaboration agreement are independent of Silence's siRNA delivery collaboration with AstraZeneca which was also extended in April this year.

Commenting on today's announcement, Philip Haworth, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Silence, said: "The extension of our development collaboration with AstraZeneca is testament to the successful relationship and the progress made in this collaboration. Both teams are working closely together to optimize the five therapeutic programs based on Silence's lea
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