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Bharat Biotech and University of Maryland Accelerate Development of New Life Saving Conjugate Vaccine for Invasive Non-Typhoidal Salmonella (iNTS)

Receive USD 4 Million Award from The Wellcome Trust for Development and Clinical Trials

Hyderabad, India, June 18, 2012: Bharat Biotech and The University of Maryland Center for Vaccine Development ("CVD") announced today a significant milestone achievement– receiving a USD 4 Million Strategic Translation Award from The Wellcome Trust for clinical development of a new conjugate vaccine including initial clinical trials beginning in three years to prevent the potentially lethal infectious disease caused by invasive non-typhoidal Salmonella (NTS).

NTS have emerged as an important cause of invasive bloodstream infection in sub-Saharan Africa, among young children with malaria and malnutrition, and among adults with HIV. Strains of non-typhoidal Salmonella ("NTS") that can cause systemic disease such as meningitis or sepsis are particularly common in sub-Saharan Africa; approximately 20 to 30% of children with such invasive NTS infections die.

"The impact, importance of academic and industry partnership is far reaching," **Dr. Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director Bharat Biotech** said. "The CVD NTS project is a testimony of our belief in collaborative research and our commitment to introduce highly effective and affordable vaccines to solve region specific neglected diseases in the developing world."

"It's an imprimatur, **says Professor Myron ("Mike") Levine, Director of the CVD**, because of the prestige associated with the Trust's involvement, the rigorous vetting process, and the opportunity for the University, in collaboration with Bharat Biotech, to bring forth a potentially life-saving vaccine for a very underserved population." Professor Levine believes that Bharat Biotech brings critical expertise as CVD's project partner in terms of conjugate vaccine development and manufacturing.

The University of Maryland Center for Vaccine Development has brought in significant grant funding over the past few decades to support its extensive vaccine development programs, but this recent achievement of Wellcome Trust funding for its collaborative NTS Vaccine Development project with Bharat Biotech holds special significance.

Experts from Bharat Biotech and University of Maryland's are upbeat on the prospects of developing NTS Conjugate Vaccine. They stated this PPP project represents a true translational public-private partnership that not only enables potentially lifesaving vaccine technology to move towards the marketplace and to the public health arena, but also demonstrates international multi-party technology transfer collaborations to help advance its science.

About the CVD, University of Maryland School of Medicine

The CVD was established in 1974 as a premier research center within the University of Maryland School of Medicine. The CVD is engaged in the full range of vaccinology, from basic science through vaccine development, clinical evaluation and field studies, and conducts clinical studies here in Maryland and at centers around the world. <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/cvd/>

About Bharat Biotech

Based in Genome Valley India, Bharat Biotech (www.bharatbiotech.com) is a multidimensional Innovation- oriented Biotechnology Company specializing in R&D, Manufacturing and Distribution of vaccines and biotherapeutics with a focus on developing novel vaccines for region specific neglected diseases in compliance with Global IPR. Built with an investment of over USD 100 million, Bharat Biotech is first bio-pharma facilities in India to be approved by Korean Food & Drugs Administration (KFDA). Innovation at Bharat Biotech has resulted in products such as REVAC-B, REGEN-D, HNVAC, etc, and vaccine candidates against rotavirus, typhoid fever, Japanese encephalitis, chikungunya etc. The company has pioneered the development of one of the first typhoid-TT conjugate vaccines in the world. Bharat Biotech holds a portfolio of 50 product patents and has delivered billions of doses of vaccines to over 65 countries.

About The Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. It supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. The Trust's breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests.

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