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PeptiDream Inc.

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PeptiDream Announces Collaboration with Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A. to Develop Candidate COVID-19 Therapies

KANAGAWA, JAPAN – June 12th, 2020 – PeptiDream Inc., a public Kanagawa-based biopharmaceutical company (“PeptiDream”)(Tokyo:4587) today announced that it has entered into a collaboration with Merck & Co. Inc., Kenilworth NJ, USA, (“Merck”), known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, for the discovery and development of novel peptide therapeutics capable of neutralizing both the current SARS-CoV-2 virus (Coronavirus Disease “COVID19”) and potential future Coronavirus (“CoV”) outbreaks.

Under this collaboration, the companies will focus their combined efforts on developing peptide therapeutics that may be effective against multiple coronavirus strains. The agreement builds on the original research collaboration and license agreement between both companies announced April 29, 2015. PeptiDream will receive an undisclosed upfront payment, as well as be eligible for payments associated with the achievement of certain preclinical, clinical, and regulatory milestones, as well as royalties on future sales of any products that arise from the collaboration.

“We are excited to announce this partnership focused on the discovery and development of peptide candidates targeting multiple coronaviruses. Our wide-ranging collaboration continues to make exceptional progress and I am confident that together we can make an impact in combatting this global challenge,” said **Patrick C. Reid PhD, President & CEO of PeptiDream.**

“Our experience has shown that good science and strong collaborations are essential to develop medicines and vaccines, and that is especially true now in a global public health emergency,” said **Emma Parmee DPhil, vice president, Discovery Chemistry research, Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA.,** *“We look forward to working with scientists at PeptiDream to identify candidates targeting SARS CoV-2 and other coronaviruses.”*

PeptiDream is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy toward identifying peptide candidates targeting different sites/regions of coronaviruses as announced previously on April 30, 2020.

<About PeptiDream Inc.>

PeptiDream Inc. is a public (Tokyo Stock Exchange 1st Section 4587) biopharmaceutical company founded in 2006 employing our proprietary Peptide Discovery Platform System (PDPS), a state-of-the-art highly versatile discovery platform which enables the production of highly diverse (trillions) non-standard peptide libraries with high efficiency, for the identification of highly potent and selective hit candidates, which then can be developed into peptide-based or small molecule-based therapeutics. PeptiDream aspires to be a world leader in drug discovery and development to address unmet medical needs and improve the quality of life of patients worldwide. For further information, please visit www.peptidream.com.

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