



## **Cardio3 BioSciences Treats Its First Patient with C-Cure<sup>®</sup>, a Second-Generation Stem Cell Derived Therapy for Heart Failure**

### **Study designed to evaluate the ability of ‘cardiopoietic’ cells to restore cardiac function**

**Mont-Saint-Guibert, Belgium 2 March, 2009** ... Cardio3 BioSciences, a leading Belgian biotechnology company specialising in cell-based therapies for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases announced today that it has treated its first patient with its new revolutionary cell based treatment C-Cure. The patient, who was treated at the Cardiovascular Center of Aalst, Aalst, Belgium, is participating in a Phase II/III clinical study to assess this second generation cell therapy in patients with heart failure. C-Cure is the outcome of multiple years of research conducted at Mayo Clinic (Rochester, Minnesota, USA) and at the Cardiovascular Center in Aalst (Aalst, Belgium). This transatlantic scientific/clinical collaboration has led to this “first-in-man” clinical study of cardiopoietic stem cells developed to heal heart injury which began today.

The trial, a randomized, prospective, multi-center trial, is designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of C-Cure beyond optimal clinical care in patients with heart failure. Patients will be randomized to C-Cure in addition to optimal standard therapy versus optimal standard therapy alone. The trial will also evaluate socio-economic implications of therapy.

C-Cure is a second-generation cell therapy for the treatment of heart failure and draws on the fundamental science of heart cell development at Mayo Clinic and within the Cardio3 BioSciences scientific in-house team. C-Cure is an autologous product that is produced by taking a patient’s own bone marrow cells and through a proprietary culturing technology, gives rise to ‘cardiopoietic’ cells that can regenerate damaged heart muscle.

C-Cure is designed to produce new heart muscle cells which behave identically to those lost in infarction without carrying the risk of rejection, something that has not been achieved with previous cell therapies for this indication.

**Dr Christian Homsy, CEO of Cardio3 BioSciences**, commenting on today’s announcement, said: “We are delighted to have achieved this important milestone in C-Cure’s development. For the first time ever will we be able to evaluate in patients whether ‘cardiopoietic’ cells, the active ingredient of C-Cure, can be used to re-construct heart muscle damaged by infarction. If C-Cure can achieve this goal, it will clearly be a major advance in the treatment of heart failure, a very common condition where current therapy does not address the underlying cause of the disease.”

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**Dr. Jozef Bartunek, [•] of the Cardiovascular Center of Aalst and Co-Principal Investigator** of the C-Cure trial commented; “C-Cure is a major breakthrough in the field of cardiac regenerative medicine. This clinical trial will be the very first to apply autologous, guided cardiac progenitor cells. This next generation stem cell product could contribute to the physical and functional regeneration of cells in the chronically infarcted heart.”

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### **About Cardio3 BioSciences**

Cardio3 BioSciences is a leading Belgian biotechnology company specialising in stem cell-based therapies for the treatment of cardiovascular disease. The Company’s lead product,

C-Cure, is a highly innovative approach to the treatment of heart failure, one of the world’s most pressing unmet medical needs. Based on a strategy developed by Cardio3 BioSciences’ founders and leveraging technology from Mayo Clinic, C-Cure allows the differentiation of a patient’s own cells into ‘cardiopoeitic’ cells which grow into new heart cells and repair heart muscle.

The Cardio3 BioSciences team has extensive experience in developing and commercialising new pharmaceutical products and medical technologies and the Company’s strategy is to drive the clinical development of C-Cure and to market the product itself in major territories.



Cardio3 BioSciences was founded in July 2007 and is based in Mont-Saint-Guibert in the Walloon region of Belgium.

### **Disclosures**

Mayo Clinic has a financial interest in technology related to this research and may stand to gain from the successful outcome of the research. Mayo Clinic holds equity in Cardio3 BioSciences as a result of intellectual property licensed to the company.