



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

CURIS AND AEGERA ANNOUNCE BREAKTHROUGH ADULT SKIN DERIVED STEM CELL RESEARCH REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF *NATURE CELL BIOLOGY*

Opens pathways to derivation of multipotent stem cells from adult skin

CAMBRIDGE, MA, and MONTREAL, Canada, -- August 13, 2001 – Curis, Inc. (NASDAQ:CRIS) and Aegera Therapeutics Inc. today announced publication in the journal *Nature Cell Biology* of a breakthrough technique in stem cell research using adult human skin.

Professor Freda Miller's findings, discovered at McGill University's Montreal Neurological Institute, Aegera's academic collaborator, indicate that adult skin is a source of multipotent stem cells which can be directed toward neuronal or mesodermal development, including neurons, glia, smooth muscle cells and adipocytes.

Quoting from Dr. Miller's article, "*These findings indicate that adult tissues contain tissue-biased stem cells,... that may be much more 'plastic' than previously appreciated... the ability to readily isolate and expand such a stem cell, from an accessible potentially autologous source such as human skin, has important therapeutic implications.*"

Curis, Inc. and Aegera Therapeutics Inc. entered into a licensing and research agreement in January 2001, under which Aegera granted to Curis an exclusive worldwide license on Aegera's skin derived, adult stem cell technologies. The agreement established a broad collaboration to investigate the therapeutic potential of these technologies in neurological, pancreatic and cardiovascular disorders. Research is to be conducted at Curis, Aegera, and McGill University's Montreal Neurological Institute.

Doros Platika, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Curis states, "We are delighted to see confirmation of our hypothesis that stem cells present in adult skin may be able to give rise to a variety of cell types that go beyond their tissue of origin. Combining Curis' expertise with stem cells, growth factors and small molecules, with Aegera's technology, may allow the treatment of various diseases using stem cells derived from a very accessible adult source. This will also avoid any ethical concerns surrounding the use of embryonic stem cells. The focus of our collaboration is in the field of Diabetes, Neurology and Cardiovascular medicine"

Mr. Michael Atkin, Aegera's president commented, "Dr. Freda Miller's dramatic proof of principle for generation of multipotent stem cells from adult skin offers hope of providing a safe, non-invasive and ethically appealing source of stem cells that our society can broadly welcome. I congratulate Dr. Miller and her team on their vision and commitment, which I believe to be equalled by our partners at Curis."

About Curis, Inc.

Curis, Inc. is developing products based on technologies in the emerging field of regenerative medicine. The Company is combining insights gained through the study of developmental biology with high-throughput screening capabilities, proteins, cells and biocompatible materials to facilitate the development of new regenerative medicine therapies. For more information, please visit the Curis web site at www.curis.com.

About Aegera Therapeutics, Inc.

Aegera Therapeutics Inc. is a privately-held biotechnology company headquartered in Montreal, Canada. In addition to the Company's stem cell focus, Aegera is developing small molecule drugs to treat central and peripheral nerve diseases, and in cancer to restore normal cell-death mechanisms by inducing apoptosis (programmed cell death). For more information, please visit the Aegera web site at www.aegera.com.

About Montreal Neurological Institute

The Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) is a McGill University research and teaching institute, dedicated to the study of the nervous system and neurological diseases. MNI researchers are world leaders in biotechnology, brain imaging, cognitive neuroscience and the study and treatment of epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and neuromuscular disorders. For more information, please visit the MNI web site at www.mni.mcgill.ca.

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