



Apoptosis Control to Extend and Enhance Life

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AEGERA THERAPEUTICS ANNOUNCES FOUR ANTIBODY MANUFACTURING LICENSES

MONTREAL. February 19, 2003 - Aegera Therapeutics Inc., a leading North American biotechnology company focused on apoptosis (cell death) control, is pleased to announce the completion of a fourth license to manufacture and sell antibodies and kits targeted against Aegera's proprietary Inhibitors of Apoptosis (IAP) gene family. Aegera has now out-licensed rights to antibodies targeted against XIAP, HIAP1, HIAP2 and NAIP.

BD Biosciences Pharmingen, R&D Systems Inc, and MBL International have previously signed non-exclusive licenses in which Aegera grants them the right to manufacture and supply antibody products derived from Aegera's IAP technology for research applications. A fourth company, who wishes their name to remain confidential, signed their license in Q4 2002.

"We are pleased to be a part of making these products available to the global research community," commented Mr. Michael Atkin, president and CEO of Aegera Therapeutics, "And we are very interested in continuing to build our portfolio of licensees to help supply the tools and reagents that advance medical discoveries."

Aegera has thirteen (13) issued US Patents on and around the Inhibitor of Apoptosis Protein gene family covering five of the eight known IAPs.

About Aegera

Aegera Therapeutics Inc. is a private North American biotechnology company focused on exploiting apoptosis control to extend and enhance life: killing cancer cells by inducing apoptosis and rescuing neurons from apoptotic cell death. Aegera's lead oncology program is a XIAP antisense therapeutic which will enter the clinic in Q1 2004. A second oncology program, the AEG3482 Series, will treat chemotherapy-induced neuropathy and is scheduled to enter clinical trials in late 2004. For more information, please visit Aegera's website at www.aegera.com.
