



## **Domain Therapeutics enters into collaboration with XOMA**

### **DTect-All(™) platform will be used to screen for GPCR-directed allosteric modulator antibodies**

**Strasbourg, France, February 4, 2014** – Domain Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company specializing in the research and development of new drug candidates targeting G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs), today announces it has entered into a multi-step collaboration with XOMA Corporation (Nasdaq: XOMA), a leader in the discovery and development of therapeutic antibodies.

XOMA, a California based U.S. public company, focuses its research on allosteric modulation which offers opportunities for new classes of therapeutic antibodies to treat a wide range of human diseases. Domain Therapeutics has extensive expertise in allosteric modulation and operates DTect-All(™), a platform that has successfully discovered small molecule allosteric modulators for a wide range of GPCRs.

Domain Therapeutics and XOMA will jointly evaluate the robustness of DTect-All(™) to identify allosteric modulator antibodies of a first target. If successful, the partners may elect to further collaborate on other GPCRs from a set of preselected targets for which, under the terms of the agreement, Domain Therapeutics will be eligible for an upfront payment and certain undisclosed milestones per target, as well as undisclosed royalties. Domain will have the right to offer its DTect-All(™) platform to discover antibody-based drugs to other companies outside the scope of the set of GPCRs selected by XOMA.

“We strongly believe that XOMA is the partner of choice to discover allosteric modulator antibodies targeting GPCRs and that applying DTect-All(™) to this area of research will represent a real breakthrough,” said Pascal Neuville, Board Director and CEO of Domain Therapeutics. “We anticipate that this collaboration will enhance our drug discovery capabilities by opening the door to other biologics. It will further strengthen Domain Therapeutics’ position as a key player in GPCR drug discovery.”

The therapeutic antibodies market is expected to grow from USD 45 billion in 2011 to USD 58 billion in 2016 (BCC Research, 2012), and GPCRs, as a major class of therapeutic targets, are expected to be a large part of it if technology obstacles can be overcome. The current paradigm of GPCR-targeting antibody discovery relies on screening techniques lacking robustness and reproducibility making the process very challenging and resulting in failures of many discovery programs. So far, just one GPCR antibody product has reached the market, however, a pipeline of Phase II candidates does confirm strong interest by the pharmaceutical industry.

Allosteric modulator antibodies are expected to display superior selectivity and safety over classic GPCR drugs and Domain’s technology has the potential to overcome the limitations of other technologies to discover this class of antibodies with novel mode of action. The majority of ongoing GPCR antibody discovery and development programs are dedicated to the identification of antagonist entities, which induce an inhibition of the GPCR signaling.

By facilitating access to this new category of drugs, DTect-All™ will generate differentiated and valuable assets for companies like XOMA, who are developing GPCR-targeting antibodies.

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### **About Domain Therapeutics**

Domain Therapeutics is a biopharmaceutical company based in Strasbourg, France, dedicated to the discovery and early development of small molecules targeting G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs), one of the most important classes of drug targets. Domain Therapeutics identifies and develops new drug candidates, allosteric modulators and biased ligands through its innovative approach and distinctive technologies. The company provides access to its technologies through research and collaborative agreements and develops its own pipeline for components up to the stage of optimized lead product for major indications in central nervous system and metabolic disorders.

In January 2014, the company established its subsidiary, Domain Therapeutics NA Inc, at the NEOMED Institute in Montreal, Canada.

Find out more at: <http://www.domaintherapeutics.com>

### **About G protein-coupled receptors**

G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) belong to the family of membrane receptors. They constitute one of the main classes of therapeutic targets for many indications of the central nervous system, metabolic disorders and cardiovascular, respiratory, urinary or gastrointestinal diseases. The binding of a hormone or a specific ligand to a receptor's binding site activates either one or several pathways for intracellular signaling. This enables the cell to provide an adapted response to the change in its environment. The many drugs that target GPCRs represent about 40 per cent of all treatments on the market, but only address 15 per cent of GPCRs. Industry scientists in the sector are now researching treatments that work on the remaining 85 per cent of GPCRs, treatments that are better adapted to patients' physiology and with fewer risks of side effects. These molecules are called allosteric modulators and biased ligands.

### **About DTect-All™**

Domain Therapeutics' DTect-All™ was specifically designed to successfully work with challenging GPCRs including orphans. It constitutes a unique and proprietary screening technology enabling sensitive detection of compounds binding to the targeted GPCR fused to a fluorescent protein. Detection is made by measuring changes in the Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET) signal that has taken place between the fluorescent protein and a fluorescent probe selected from Domain's proprietary probe collection. As the FRET-based assays often results in removing the orthosteric binding site, DTect-All™ selectively identifies allosteric modulators.

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