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## **Ono and Galapagos Subsidiary BioFocus Sign an Additional Target Discovery Agreement in the Field of Allergic Disease**

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka Japan) and BioFocus (Saffron Walden UK) announced today that they have signed an additional collaboration agreement, focused on discovering novel targets in the field of allergic diseases including atopic dermatitis and bronchial asthma. Under the new agreement, Galapagos' service division BioFocus will receive research funding and success payments based on the progress of the collaboration. BioFocus will utilize its unique SilenceSelect<sup>®</sup> target discovery platform to deliver validated targets to Ono. Ono aims to find modulators for these targets and generate novel drug candidates. For information, Ono started the first collaboration with BioFocus in January 2011, focusing on discovering novel targets in the field of autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis.

"We are delighted with the success of our relationship with Ono" said Dr Chris Newton, SVP Galapagos Services and Managing Director BioFocus. "The start of a new collaboration one year after the first one is testament to our target discovery platform and the strength of our partnership."

Kazuhito Kawabata, Ph.D., Member of the Board of Directors, Executive Officer and Executive Director, Discovery and Research of Ono commented: "This new project builds upon a novel human primary cell-based assay developed by BioFocus in the field of allergic diseases, an area with significant unmet medical needs. We are excited to apply BioFocus' target discovery platform to discover and validate novel drug targets."

### **About BioFocus**

BioFocus provides integrated drug discovery that delivers pre-clinical drug candidates in all therapeutic areas with strong capability in neurodegenerative diseases, inflammatory diseases and with a growing track record of delivering candidates against rare and neglected diseases. BioFocus has advanced and comprehensive drug discovery capabilities that are applied to client projects to deliver targets, hits, leads and candidate pre-clinical drugs. As a service division of Galapagos, BioFocus employs over 250 exceptionally qualified and industry experienced scientists at its three research centers in the UK, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Since its foundation in 1997, BioFocus has striven to produce high quality data for its clients and this quality is assured by ISO9001 qualification validated by regular, independent inspection of all BioFocus research centers. For more information please visit [www.biofocus.com](http://www.biofocus.com).

### **SilenceSelect<sup>®</sup>**

SilenceSelect<sup>®</sup> is platform technology which utilizes human primary cell assays with ribonucleic acid (RNA) interference (RNAi) through proprietary adenoviral technology to find novel targets. RNAi is a technology that controls the activity of specific genes by introducing small double-stranded RNA fragments into cells. Protein expression from a specific gene is suppressed by the introduction of these artificial RNAs which allows complex functional studies on the protein's role in a specific disease pathway to be performed. BioFocus employs the unique properties of adenoviruses to apply RNAi in human primary cells.