Editas Medicine Supports Rare Disease Day® and Joins Global Movement to Raise Important Awareness for Rare Diseases

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 28, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Editas Medicine, Inc. (NASDAQ:EDIT), a leading genome editing company, today announced the Company has joined forces with 30 million Americans and health care advocates around the world for Rare Disease Day® today. Rare Disease Day is an annual awareness day dedicated to elevating public understanding of rare diseases and calling attention to the special challenges people face.

"The team at Editas Medicine has the bold vision to unlock the potential of CRISPR to design and develop genome editing medicines, and we are making tremendous progress and scientific advancements in our work to invent new medicines for people with devastating diseases, including rare diseases," said Gerry Cox, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer, Editas Medicine. "It's a privilege to join organizations like EURORDIS and NORD, as well as our colleagues within the industry, to raise awareness of rare diseases and the millions of people and their families around the world living with rare diseases."

CRISPR is a dynamic, versatile tool that can be programmed to target specific stretches of genetic code and edit DNA at precise locations in the human genome. The technology allows researchers to permanently modify genes and has the potential to create medicines with a durable treatment effect following a single dose. Editas Medicine is currently focused on using its CRISPR technology to treat diseases for which there are few or no available treatments, including a rare inherited eye disease called Leber congenital amaurosis type 10, or LCA10, that appears at birth or in the first few months of life and leads to significant vision loss.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a disease is rare if it affects fewer than 200,000 people in the U.S. Nearly 1 in 10 Americans live with a rare disease – affecting 30 million people – and nearly half of these patients are children. There are more than 7,000 rare diseases and only approximately 450 FDA-approved medical treatments.

About Rare Disease Day
Rare Disease Day takes place every year on the last day of February (February 28 or February 29 in a leap year) – the rarest date on the calendar – to underscore the nature of rare diseases and what patients face. It was established in Europe in 2008 by EURORDIS, the organization representing rare disease patients in Europe, and is now observed in more than 80 nations. Rare Disease Day is sponsored in the U.S. by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)®, the largest and leading independent, nonprofit organization committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare diseases. For more information about Rare Disease Day in the U.S., go to www.rarediseaseday.us. For information about global activities, go to www.rarediseaseday.org. To search for information about rare diseases, visit NORD's website, www.rarediseases.org.

About Editas Medicine
As a leading genome editing company, Editas Medicine is focused on translating the power and potential of the CRISPR/Cas9 and CRISPR/Cpf1 genome editing systems into a robust pipeline of treatments for people living with serious diseases around the world. Editas Medicine aims to discover, develop, manufacture, and commercialize transformative, durable, precision genomic medicines for a broad class of diseases. For the latest information and scientific presentations, please visit www.editasmedicine.com.

Forward-Looking Statements
This press release contains forward-looking statements and information within the meaning of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The words "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "plan," "potential," "predict," "project," "target," "should," "would," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. The Company may not actually achieve the plans, intentions, or expectations disclosed in these forward-looking statements, and you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Actual results or events could differ materially from the plans, intentions and expectations disclosed in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including: uncertainties inherent in the initiation and completion of preclinical studies and clinical trials and clinical development of the Company's product candidates; availability and timing of results from preclinical studies and clinical trials; whether interim results from a clinical trial will be predictive of the final results of the trial or the results of future trials; expectations for regulatory approvals to conduct trials or to market products and availability of funding sufficient for the Company's foreseeable and unforeseeable operating expenses and capital expenditure requirements. These and other risks are described in greater detail under the caption "Risk Factors" included in the Company's most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, which is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and in other filings that the Company may make with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the future. Any forward-looking statements contained in this press release speak only as of the date hereof, and the Company expressly disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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