Editas Medicine Announces Exclusive License to Advanced CRISPR Genome Editing Technology from Massachusetts General Hospital

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-- License to Engineered Forms of Cas9 Nuclease Includes High-Fidelity Cas9 and Cas9 PAM Variants --

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Aug. 03, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Editas Medicine, Inc. (NASDAQ:EDIT), a leading genome editing company, today announced the Company has entered into an exclusive license agreement with Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) to access intellectual property and technology related to high-fidelity Cas9 nucleases and Cas9 PAM variants that will enable the Company to address an expanded range of genetically-defined diseases with the potential for enhanced specificity.

“This agreement with MGH marks additional progress on our strategy of building a company committed to advancing the science behind CRISPR to benefit patients facing genetically-defined diseases,” said Katrine Bosley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Editas Medicine. “Keith Joung and his MGH team have done tremendous work in creating these novel, engineered forms of Cas9, and these advancements align fully with our highly differentiated genome editing platform. We are eager to deploy them and unlock their therapeutic potential.”

“I’m delighted to hear that MGH and Editas Medicine have entered into this important agreement,” said J. Keith Joung, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Chief for Research, the Jim and Ann Orr MGH Research Scholar in the MGH Department of Pathology, and a scientific co-founder of and consultant to Editas Medicine. “I look forward to the full potential of these high-fidelity Cas9 and Cas9 PAM variants being maximized to develop safe and effective therapies for patients with a broad range of diseases.”

As published in the January 28, 2016 issue of *Nature*, MGH researchers led by Dr. Joung described their high-fidelity Cas9 variant – *Streptococcus pyogenes* Cas9-HF1 – designed to reduce non-specific DNA contacts. SpCas9-HF1 rendered all or nearly all off-target events undetectable by genome-wide break capture and targeted sequencing methods. The MGH team has also identified and characterized a series of novel *S. pyogenes* and *S. aureus* Cas9 PAM variants that substantially increase the range of sites in the genome that can be targeted for genome editing. These PAM variants were described in more detail in the July 23, 2015 issue of *Nature* and the December 2015 issue of *Nature Biotechnology*. The protospacer adjacent motif, or PAM, is the region of the Cas9 protein that helps determine where Cas9 can bind to DNA.

About Editas Medicine
Editas Medicine is a leading genome editing company dedicated to treating patients with genetically defined diseases by correcting their disease-causing genes. The Company was founded by world leaders in genome editing, and its mission is to translate the promise of genome editing science into a broad class of transformative genomic medicines to benefit the greatest number of patients.

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 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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