Editas Medicine Announces Scientific Multi-Year Collaboration with Fondazione Telethon and Ospedale San Raffaele

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-Company to Collaborate with Leading Genomic Medicines Institutes to Progress Genome Edited Hematopoietic Stem Cell and T Cell Based Therapies-

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., July 28, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Editas Medicine, Inc. (NASDAQ:EDIT), a leading genome editing company, and Fondazione Telethon and Ospedale San Raffaele, which operate a joint research collaboration known as the San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy (SR-TIGET), have entered into a scientific collaboration to research and develop genome edited hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) and T cell therapies. The scientific work at SR-TIGET in Milan, Italy will be led by Luigi Naldini, M.D., Ph.D., SR-TIGET Director, and a world-renowned expert in lentiviral gene therapy and hematology.

"Dr. Naldini and SR-TIGET are world leaders in gene therapy. They have pioneered many important scientific advancements working with cells of the immune system and have extensive expertise in translating that work into cell-based therapies," said Katrine Bosley, CEO, Editas Medicine. "We believe there will be great synergy across our scientific teams through this collaboration."

"My team and I believe genome editing is a promising answer to advance medicines to treat technically challenging diseases," said Dr. Naldini. "We at San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy have worked for years to develop targeted integration of therapeutic genes into T cells and HSCs, and the collaboration with Editas Medicine represents an important opportunity to develop more effective and safe therapies for patients in the years ahead."

The goal of the three-year research collaboration includes the development of gene correction strategies for the treatment of rare diseases, including two specified indications in the blood and bone marrow. This collaboration is part of Editas Medicine's overall HSC and T cell editing product development strategy for challenging disease areas.

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.

About Fondazione Telethon
Fondazione Telethon is a major biomedical charity in Italy whose mission is to advance biomedical research towards the cure of rare genetic diseases. Throughout its 26 years of activity, the Telethon Foundation has invested over €450 million in funding over 2,500 projects to study 470 diseases, involving more than 1,500 researchers. For further information, visit www.telethon.it/en.

About Ospedale San Raffaele
Ospedale San Raffaele (OSR) is a clinical-research-university hospital established in 1971 to provide international-level specialised care for the most complex and difficult health conditions. Since 2012 OSR is part of Gruppo Ospedaliero San Donato, the leading hospital group in Italy. The hospital is a multi-specialty centre with over 50 clinical specialties and has over 1,300 beds. Research at OSR focuses on integrating basic, translational and clinical activities to provide the most advanced care to its patients**.** For further information, visit: www.hsr.it.

About San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy
Settled in Milan, Italy, the San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy (SR-TIGET) is a joint venture between the Ospedale San Raffaele Hospital and Fondazione Telethon established in 1995 to perform research on gene transfer and cell transplantation and translate its results into clinical applications of gene and cell therapies for different genetic diseases.

For more information, please visit the Institute website, http://www.tiget.it/.

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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