

## **Heptares First-In-Class Selective Muscarinic Agonists Chosen As One Of Top Neuroscience Projects To Watch**

### **Program to be presented at Therapeutic Area Partnerships Conference in Boston on 20 November**

**London, UK and Boston, MA, USA, 17 November 2014** – Heptares Therapeutics, the leading GPCR structure-guided drug discovery and development company, is pleased to announce that its first-in-class selective muscarinic agonist programme has been selected as one of ten top projects in neuroscience by a panel of industry experts. Heptares President Dan Grau will present an overview of the programme at the upcoming Therapeutic Area Partnerships conference (19-21 November 2015, Boston, MA, USA).

Heptares has created a pipeline of selective M1, selective M4 and dual selective M1/M4 agonists for the treatment of a wide range of disorders associated with cognitive impairment and/or psychosis. The most advanced selective M1 agonist candidate is currently being evaluated in Phase 1 clinical studies and has potential for improving cognitive function (memory and thinking abilities) in patients with Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia and other diseases associated with cognitive impairment. Heptares is also developing selective M4 agonists for treating psychosis in schizophrenia and the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia, and dual M1/M4 agonists for clinical settings of co-morbid cognitive impairment and psychosis.

Muscarinic M1 and M4 receptors are highly validated yet previously undruggable clinical targets. The principal challenge has been to engineer selective compounds that activate these receptors without also activating the closely related M2 or M3 receptors, which are associated with undesirable side effects. All previous compounds have been discontinued due to inadequate selectivity and the Heptares agents represent novel chemotype, first-in-class product candidates.

Mr Grau will also participate in a roundtable discussion at the conference, entitled "*The Current Status of Innovation in Neurotherapeutics - Paths to Increased Efficiency and Decreased Cost.*" The roundtable discussion will take place on Thursday 20 November at 10:00am ET and the selective muscarinic programme presentation will take place at 1:40 pm ET.