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Medicago boosts VLP based vaccine technology

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Singapore: Immune Design, a leader in the field of therapeutic vaccines for cancer, infectious diseases and allergy, and Medicago, a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing highly effective and competitive vaccines based on proprietary manufacturing technologies and Virus-Like Particles (VLPs), have entered a license agreement providing Medicago the use and commercialization of Immune Design's proprietary synthetic toll-like Receptor 4 agonist, Glucopyranosyl Lipid A (GLA). Medicago has the option to use Immune Design's molecular adjuvant in its vaccines for various pandemic influenza strains.

Under the terms of the agreement, Immune Design has granted Medicago a worldwide, non-exclusive license to research, develop, and commercialize GLA as a component of its VLP-based vaccines in the field of pandemic influenza. Other terms were not disclosed.

"We are pleased to enter into this collaboration with Medicago and allow for our proprietary adjuvant to be utilized in their vaccine candidates for pandemic influenza," states Dr. Carlos Paya, Immune Design's President and Chief Executive Officer. "Medicago has demonstrated a track record to date, of rapid and successful vaccine candidates design and production which have them at the forefront of next generation vaccine development."

"The established clinical safety and immunogenicity profile of Immune Design's synthetic TLR4 agonist, GLA, make it an ideal adjuvant for our VLP-based influenza vaccine candidates," said Mr. Andy Sheldon, Medicago's President and Chief Executive Officer. "We will further investigate the use of both formulated GLA and alum in our Phase II H5N1 trial which was recently

initiated with results expected during the summer of 2013."