

For Immediate release

## **ASTERAND PLC**

### **Asterand Awarded Key Patents on the BioMAP<sup>®</sup> Technology**

Asterand plc (LSE: ATD), a leading provider of human tissue-based services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies engaged in drug discovery research, and its subsidiary BioSeek LLC today announced that the United States Patent and Trademark Office has issued U.S. Patent Nos. 7,908,089 entitled "Patient classification" and 7,912,651 entitled "Function homology screening." The patents cover key methods and applications of the company's ground-breaking BioMAP<sup>®</sup> Systems technology.

Patent 7,908,089 relates to BioMAP<sup>®</sup> and its use for the classification of clinical patient tissue specimens according to the physiological status of cells present in the sample. Key embodiments of the invention include the ability to classify patients by assaying their cells in vitro to determine response to therapeutic agents and treatments or the status of activity within pathways of interest. This information may be useful in patient prognosis and diagnosis and can be used to develop surrogate markers for disease states

Patent 7,912,651 covers key methods of cell selection, culture conditions and screening of biologically active agents utilised by the BioMAP<sup>®</sup> Systems technology. Key features of the invention include the identification of complex conditions for simultaneous detection of a large number of cellular pathways and the rapid screening and identification of compounds that cause cellular responses. These methods are useful for the characterisation and prioritisation of drug candidates and compounds based on their impact on human biology. BioSeek scientists are the inventors on both patents, which further strengthens the Company's intellectual property around BioMAP<sup>®</sup> technology.

#### **Martyn Coombs, Chief Executive Officer of Asterand commented:**

"Our BioMAP<sup>®</sup> technology represents a truly unique approach and addresses a major unmet need in drug development for model systems that reflect the complexity of human disease. These issued patents represent a key advance as we continue building the intellectual property portfolio around this platform."

BioMAP<sup>®</sup> Systems are primary cell-based models of human disease biology, designed to replicate the intricate cell and pathway interactions as they are observed in human pharmacology and toxicology. Depending on their mechanism of action, drug compounds induce specific patterns of changes in these systems (BioMAP<sup>®</sup> profiles) that can be compared to a large number of reference profiles in the BioMAP<sup>®</sup> Database. BioMAP<sup>®</sup> provides insight into human pharmacological and toxicological properties of compounds, including on- and off-target effects, dose responses, and the discrimination of closely related compounds.

**Contacts:**

**Asterand plc**

Martyn Coombs, Chief Executive Officer

Tel: + 44 (0) 1763 211 600 /  
+ 1 (313) 263-0960

John Stchur, Chief Financial Officer

As above

**Buchanan Communications**

Lisa Baderoon / Mark Court / Isabel Podda

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7466 5000

**Daniel Stewart & Company plc**

Antony Legge

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7776 6566

Martin Lampshire

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7776 6550

**About ASTERAND**

Asterand plc is a leading supplier of high quality human tissue and tissue-based services. Our comprehensive approach to human tissue and research services offers pharmaceutical, biotech and diagnostic companies the unique opportunity to have one company meet all of their human biomaterial needs along the continuum of drug discovery and development. Our mission is to accelerate target discovery and compound validation and enable pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to take safer and more effective drugs into the market.

For more information about Asterand or BioSeek, go to [www.asterand.com](http://www.asterand.com).