

ASTERAND PLC

Asterand licenses from Capsant Neurotechnologies Ltd. and introduces new 3-D human cell based model for diabetes research

Asterand plc (LSE: ATD), a leading provider of human tissue and cell-based services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies engaged in drug discovery research, today announces the exclusive licensing on a worldwide basis from Capsant Neurotechnologies Ltd. and the introduction of *isletOrganDOT*[™], a novel 3-D cell based assay platform for evaluating therapeutic compounds for diabetes. This new service will be introduced at a podium presentation given by Samantha Ho, an Asterand Scientist, at the Informa Life Sciences Cell-Based Assays Conference in Berlin, Germany.

Dr. Thomas Mander, Vice President Sales and Marketing at Asterand plc noted:

“Following a successful evaluation phase, we are extremely pleased to have secured an exclusive license from Capsant and to be launching the *isletOrganDOT*[™] system today to add it to our growing suite of PhaseZERO[®] human-based drug discovery services. Cell based models for diabetes research have relied on cell lines or intact rodent and human isolated islets, but both models have limitations. Asterand’s *isletOrganDOT*[™] system offers advancements in functionality, throughput and study design, allowing us to provide our clients with relevant human data on the effects of test compounds in a rapid and reproducible manner.”

Dr. Graham Place, Senior Department Head Biochemical Pharmacology at Asterand UK Ltd commented:

“The *isletOrganDOT*[™] 3D tissue culture system replicates, under physiological and pharmacological control, the release of mediators from human islet cells. Asterand has made a significant investment to create this innovative, validated and quality controlled platform. The platform supports human reconstituted primary islets in a manner that allows cells to retain functionality for up to 14 days in culture. This feature permits carefully timed and repeat dosing regimes for test compounds. In addition, the 24-insert plate format and the ability to run multiple plates within a single study offers our clients numerous options for testing batches of early hit compounds through to in-depth profiling of lead/pre-clinical compounds. We are pleased to assist our clients in their discovery and development of new treatments to combat the global health challenge of diabetes.”

Asterand’s UK service division offers exemplary scientific expertise in human tissue research. Through its PhaseZERO[®] platform the Company provides pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with compound evaluation, target and biomarker validation services.

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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, go to www.asterand.com.

About Capsant

Capsant is a company focused on research and development of commercially viable proprietary organotypic cellular systems with applications including oncology, neurosciences and cardiotoxicology.

For more information, go to www.organdotbiosystems.com