

22 February 2024

Aptamer Group plc

("Aptamer", the "Company" or the "Group")

Aptamer and Neuro-Bio enter the second phase of Alzheimer's test development

Aptamer Group plc (AIM: APTA), the developer of novel Optimer[®] binders to enable innovation in the life sciences industry, announces the second phase of its on-going partnership with Neuro-Bio, an Oxfordshire-based biotechnology company with a therapeutic focus on neurodegenerative disease, to develop Optimer binders for a lateral flow test for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

This latest phase involves development of an additional Optimer binder against the innovative Neuro-Bio target implicated in Alzheimer's disease, with the goal of developing reagents for a lateral flow test for early disease detection. Following the earlier identification of Optimer binders to this novel Alzheimer's disease biomarker,¹ these binders have been characterised for use in lateral flow and biosensor assays.

Common lateral flow test formats require a pair of binders to increase diagnostic test accuracy. To prevent the need for animal-derived antibodies in its Alzheimer's disease diagnostic, Neuro-Bio now requires the development of additional binders to support the lateral flow test format and deliver a wholly Optimer-powered test. As Optimer binders are oligonucleotide-based, rather than protein-based like antibodies, they offer further advantages including scalability of manufacture, improved shelf-life and tuneability benefits that will allow more stable and specific reagents for use in lateral flow tests.

Steve Hull, Chairman of Aptamer Group, said: "We are very pleased to continue our exciting relationship with Neuro-Bio to deliver the specific Optimer binders needed to enable this revolutionary diagnostic for this devastating disease. It is great to work with such enthusiastic partners that understand our Optimer technology's benefits and are actively seeking solutions to overcome the industry's problems with antibodies."

Baroness Susan Greenfield, CEO of Neuro-Bio, said: "At Neuro-Bio we're thrilled at entering this next phase of development with Aptamer Group: the first phase proved productive and very promising. Now, this next stage takes us closer to realising a highly novel and much needed technology for detecting neurodegenerative diseases at a very early stage."

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINS INSIDE INFORMATION.

1. <https://www.londonstockexchange.com/news-article/APTA/aptamer-neuro-bio-to-develop-alzheimer-s-test/15997896>

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About Aptamer Group plc

Aptamer [Group](#) develops custom affinity binders through its proprietary Optimer[®] platform to enable new approaches in therapeutics, diagnostics, and research applications. The Company strives to deliver transformational solutions that meet the needs of life science researchers and developers.

Optimer binders are oligonucleotide affinity ligands that can function as an antibody alternative. The global affinity ligand market is currently worth over \$170 billion.

Aptamer has successfully delivered projects for a range of global pharma companies, diagnostic development companies, and research institutes, covering multiple application areas with the objective of establishing royalty-bearing licenses.

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