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**PRESS RELEASE**

## **DEFENCE THERAPEUTICS SELECTS THE BEST 8 ACCUM™ VARIANTS TO OPTIMIZE ITS ADC THERAPEUTIC**

**Vancouver, BC, Canada, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021** – Defence Therapeutics Inc. (“**Defence**” or the “**Company**”), is pleased to announce, that after a detailed and rigorous selection process, very strong and promising results of its bests Accum™ variants has been identified.

Defence’s has tested 43 Accum™ variants conjugated to T-DM1 with a low conjugation ratio (1-4 Accum™ per T-DM1) in order to select the best ones to pursue our selection of the optimized Accum-T-DM1 conjugate based on *in vitro* assessments. These studies highlight the additive effect of the Accum™ technology and guide the selection of the optimal Accum-T-DM1 *in vivo* testing on breast and gastric cancer models.

On the 43 Accum™ variants tested, we have selected the 8 best which will be sent this week to our collaborator at the HUS Comprehensive Cancer Center in Helsinki, Finland for the optimization of Defence’s Accum-T-DM1 ADC Therapeutic. The 8 selected Accum-T-DM1 increases the potency of T-DM1 by at least 5-fold on the HER2 positive breast cancer Trastuzumab and T-DM1 resistant cell line model named JIMT-1. At concentration of 1.0 ug/ml, T-DM1 only induce approximatively 10% of cytotoxicity comparatively to Accum-T-DM1 variants that increase the cytotoxicity by 40-70%. Our Collaborator will also do a head-to-head comparison to the new ADC Enhertu® owned by AstraZeneca and Daiichi Sankyo. Enhertu® (fam-trastuzumab-deruxtecan-nxki) is a newcomer ADC designed to treat HER2 heterogeneous tumors through a bystander effect.

Defence’s Accum™ platform has been developed and tested *in vitro* to enhance the intracellular drug delivery on multiple ADCs that are FDA approved or under development. In that regard, Defence is also pleased to announce the commencement of a new study project to test the Accum™ variants on the recent ADC Enhertu® (fam-trastuzumab-deruxtecan-nxki) owned by AstraZeneca and Daiichi Sankyo. Defence’s scientific team believes the Accum™ will increase the routing and delivery of the deruxtecan to the nucleus and consequently will increase more significantly the potency of ADC from which the drug targets the nucleus protein/process compared to T-DM1 targeting microtubule (a cytoplasmic and non-nucleus protein machinery). Deruxtecan is a small toxic drug inhibitor targeting the nuclear protein named topoisomerase I.

“The 8 selected Accum™ variants produced very impressive results that confirms the strength and optimization of our Accum™ platform in the ADC field of therapeutics against breast and gastric cancer. The versatility of our Accum™ platform and variants gives us a solid competitive advantage” said Sebastien Plouffe, Chief Executive Officer of Defence Therapeutics.

### **About Defence:**

Defence Therapeutics is a publicly-traded biotechnology company working on engineering the next generation vaccines and ADC products using its proprietary platform. The core of Defence Therapeutics platform is the ACCUM™ technology, which enables precision delivery of vaccine antigens or ADCs in their intact form to target cells by inducing their entrapment escape. As a result, increased efficacy and potency can be reached against catastrophic illness such as cancer and infectious diseases.

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