# ADC Therapeutics to Move Antibody Drug Conjugate ADCT-401 for Prostate Cancer into Human Clinical Trials with Partner MedImmune

**Lausanne, Switzerland and London, UK, May 19 2014 –** ADC Therapeutics (ADCT), an oncology drug development company that specializes in the development of proprietary Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs) targeting major cancers, announced today that it has selected its first IND candidate under its joint development agreement with MedImmune, the global biologics research and development arm of AstraZeneca.

This follows the October 2013 announcement in which MedImmune entered into a collaboration agreement with ADC Therapeutics to jointly develop two of ADCT's antibody-drug conjugate programs in preclinical development.

ADCT-401 targets Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA) a cell-surface antigen specifically expressed by prostate cancer cells. ADCT-401 comprises an anti-PSMA monoclonal antibody coupled with a pyrrolobenzodiazepine (PBD) warhead using a proprietary linker licensed from London-based Spirogen, a wholly owned subsidiary of MedImmune. Initial clinical studies will focus on hormone-refractory prostate cancer and an IND filing is anticipated in 2015.

"We are excited by the preclinical efficacy data we have seen with ADCT-401 in a number of *in vivo* models of prostate cancer. These data have encouraged us to continue development of this unique ADC for the treatment of refractory prostate cancer. ADCT-401 was constructed and tested by the joint ADCT and Spirogen teams, and we are very pleased with the outcome," said Dr. Peter B. Corr, Chairman of ADCT and Co-Founder and Managing General Partner of Auven Therapeutics, the private equity firm behind the formation of ADCT and its majority shareholder.

The PSMA-specific J591 antibody in ADCT-401 was developed by Dr. Neil H. Bander, the Bernard & Josephine Chaus Professor of Urologic Oncology and Director of Urological Oncology Research at the Weill-Cornell Medical College, New York. Dr. Bander is also Chairman of ADCT's Scientific Advisory Board. PSMA is a cell-surface antigen expressed by virtually all prostate cancer cells, including metastases, and also in the blood vessels that feed many other tumor types, but is rarely expressed in normal cells.

"PSMA is an ideal target for an ADC therapeutic strategy because it is unparalleled in its prostate cancer specificity, its high density of expression and its very efficient internalization," said Dr. Neil Bander. "If the preclinical efficacy and safety studies translate into the clinic, ADCT-401 has the potential to be a breakthrough therapy in the treatment of advanced, refractory prostate cancers. I am delighted that the ADCT and MedImmune teams have combined their efforts to advance it into patients as quickly as possible," he added.

This will be ADCT's second ADC program into the clinic from its pipeline of eleven programs with an IND filing expected in the first of these programs by the end of this year.

"We are optimistic that continued investigations of ADCT-401 in patients with prostate cancer will deliver the results we expect. The program is a testament to the close teamwork, commitment to scientific excellence and sense of urgency shared between the MedImmune and ADC Therapeutics teams on this project," said Stephen Evans-Freke, Co-founder and Managing General Partner of Auven Therapeutics.

The pre-clinical development of ADCT-401 is being managed by a team of scientists based in laboratories at the Queen Mary Bioenterprises Innovation Centre, London which, being co-located with Spirogen, enables close co-operation between the two groups.

**Notes to Editors**

**About ADC Therapeutics (www.adctherapeutics.com)**
ADC Therapeutics (ADCT) is an oncology drug development company that specializes in the development of proprietary Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs) targeting major cancers such as breast, lung, prostate, renal and blood. The Company's ADCs are highly targeted drug constructs which combine monoclonal antibodies specific to particular types of tumor cells with a novel class of highly potent pyrrolobenzodiazepine (PBD)-based warheads. The Company has access to warhead and linkers chemistries via agreements with Spirogen (a wholly-owned subsidiary of AstraZeneca's MedImmune). It is progressing eleven ADC programs, two of these under a joint development agreement with MedImmune.

ADCT was launched in 2012 with a $50m commitment from private equity firm Auven Therapeutics, which retained majority ownership. In 2013 AstraZeneca took an equity stake in the Company, investing $20 million. The Company is located in Lausanne, Switzerland with the scientific team leading the drug development programs is based in laboratories at Queen Mary Bioenterprises Innovation Centre, London, UK.

**About pyrrolobenzodiazepine (PBD) warhead technology**
PBDs have been shown by researchers at a number of pharmaceutical companies to be dramatically more efficacious than first generation warhead chemistries in a wide range of preclinical models of different tumor types. In 2013 ADCT and Spirogen published data showing that the Herceptin monoclonal antibody conjugated with a PBD warhead yields a large proportion of Complete Responses in HER2-positive cancer models, including low HER2-expressers. In contrast, the first generation ADC-targeting HER2, now approved for refractory HER2-positive breast cancer, only slows tumor cell growth in these models although significantly longer than stand-alone Herceptin. Seattle Genetics announced the filing of an IND on its first PBD-warheaded ADC, developed under a license from Spirogen, in 2013, and recently stated they intended to file an IND on a second PBD-warheaded ADC this year.

**About Auven Therapeutics (www.auventx.com)**
Auven Therapeutics is a global private equity firm that acquires and pursues accelerated development of breakthrough therapeutic drugs prior to licensing them to commercial partners. Auven's in-house team of senior pharmaceutical development executives establish the clinical, regulatory, manufacturing and commercial strategies for all its products and oversees their execution. Auven was founded in 2007 by Stephen Evans-Freke and Dr.

Peter B. Corr, and maintains operations in Lausanne, London, New York, Bermuda, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For more information please contact:

**Media enquiries:**
Instinctif Partners
Sue Charles/Stefanie Bacher/Gemma Howe
T: +44 (0)20 7866 7866
auventx@instinctif.com

**Auven Therapeutics:**
Investor Relations
Kathy Armstrong:
T: +1 (212) 616 4042
kathy.armstrong@auventx.com