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## **SeneXta Therapeutics SA announces Worldwide Exclusive Licensing Agreement for Methanesulfonyl Fluoride with the University of Texas at El Paso**

**Lugano, Switzerland, and El Paso TX, USA, January 27<sup>th</sup> 2009** – SENEXTA THERAPEUTICS SA a Swiss biopharmaceutical company and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), announce the signature of a licensing agreement for Methanesulfonyl Fluoride (MSF).

Under the terms of the agreement, SeneXta has acquired the worldwide exclusive rights to develop and market MSF for the treatment of brain disorders including Alzheimer's disease (AD) and stroke.

"We are excited to sign this agreement with UTEP and look forward to establishing a solid and long-lasting collaboration with the University. MSF holds great potential in treating patients with Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders," said Enrico Braglia, CEO and founder of SeneXta.

Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer Federica Pericle, Ph.D., will be UTEP's liaison for SeneXta in El Paso. Dr. Pericle is the associate vice president for biotechnology in the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects at UTEP.

SeneXta is the first biotechnology company to be spun off from UTEP intellectual property. The details of the new company were given during an event on campus held on January 20, 2009.

In his research, Dr. Donald Moss, professor at UTEP and inventor, discovered that MSF could be an effective treatment for Alzheimer's patients, and plays a key role in memory, learning and other brain functions.

"In our preliminary trials, we discovered that MSF produces substantially more cognitive improvement than has been reported for other Alzheimer's drugs in this class," Dr. Moss said. "Also, MSF's unique properties permit delivery of an appropriate therapeutic dose without the side effects of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea."

### **About MSF**

Methanesulfonyl fluoride is a selective and novel inhibitor of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The basic science of MSF-induced AChE inhibition is fundamentally different from that of the short-acting AChE inhibitors that are available for the treatment of Alzheimer's. MSF produces long-acting AChE inhibition, which improves its brain selectivity and reduces the peripheral toxicity (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea) that limits the utility of short acting inhibitors. MSF has been tested in Alzheimer's patients with promising results.

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### **About SenexTa Therapeutics SA**

SenexTa is a Swiss biopharmaceutical company engaged in the research and development of therapies for neurodegenerative disorders including Alzheimer's disease, cognitive impairment secondary to ischemia, and other central nervous system (CNS) disorders. The company is focused on medicines that address a large unmet medical need to maintain healthy brain aging as well as rehabilitation after ischemic brain injury.

SenexTa was founded to acquire intellectual properties for the treatment of CNS disorders. SenexTa has already recruited a world-leading team of CNS experts and established solid collaborations with U.S. and European Union universities.

For more information:

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### **About University of Texas at El Paso**

The University of Texas at El Paso is a major research university at the heart of the U.S.-Mexico border committed to the ideals of access and excellence. A leader among Hispanic-serving institutions, UTEP enrolls more than 20,400 students and is the only doctoral research university in the nation with a student body that is a majority Mexican American. UTEP's growing research portfolio boasts nearly \$50 million in research spending in a variety of areas, including border security, emerging technologies, Hispanic health, environmental and Earth science, borderland arts and humanities, and the education of U.S. Hispanics.

For more information:

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