



## Abgenix And Diabetogen Form Collaboration To Develop Anti-Cd28 Antibody Therapy

- Human Antibody to CD28 Antigen May Provide Novel Treatment for Type I Diabetes and Autoimmune Diseases -

Fremont, Calif. and London, Ontario, Canada – March 26, 2001 – Abgenix, Inc. (Nasdaq: ABGX), an antibody-based biopharmaceutical company, and Diabetogen Biosciences, Inc., a privately-held biotechnology company, announced today the formation of a research collaboration to develop a fully human monoclonal antibody therapy against human antigen CD28 for the treatment of Type I diabetes, and possibly other autoimmune diseases.

Under the terms of the collaboration, Abgenix will use its XenoMouse™ technology to generate fully human antibodies against the CD28 antigen. Both parties will conduct *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies of the antibody candidates. Abgenix has an exclusive option to co-develop the antibody product with Diabetogen. The use of anti-CD28 antibodies in the treatment of autoimmune diseases is proprietary to Diabetogen.

"Abgenix is excited to use its XenoMouse technology to create a fully human antibody therapy against the CD28 target," stated R. Scott Greer, President and CEO of Abgenix. "We are pleased to join forces with Diabetogen's researchers in exploiting an interesting antigen target for prevalent disease conditions such as Type I diabetes."

"We are delighted to collaborate with Abgenix on the development of a fully human anti-CD28 antibody," remarked William A. McGinnis, President and CEO of Diabetogen. "We anticipate that an anti-CD28 antibody will be an exciting novel therapy for Type I diabetes and other autoimmune diseases."

CD28 is an antigen expressed on the surface of T cells of the immune system. In conjunction with other surface proteins, CD28 is responsible for activation of the T cells and regulation of immune responses. Absence of CD28 co-stimulation results in inappropriate activation of the immune system, resulting in the onset of autoimmune diseases such as Type I diabetes. By collaboratively developing an anti-CD28 antibody, Diabetogen and Abgenix intend to re-establish a regulated immune system in diseased individuals.

Abgenix's proprietary XenoMouse™ is a transgenic mouse strain possessing an immune system in which the mouse antibody-producing genes have been inactivated and functionally replaced by most of the human antibody-producing genes. Upon immunization, XenoMouse generates fully human, high-affinity monoclonal antibodies that bind with high specificity to antigens of diverse structures, including human antigens. Within two to four months, XenoMouse produces multiple antibodies from which to choose an optimal candidate for development.

Type I (insulin-dependent) diabetes is a chronic and progressive autoimmune disorder where the body's immune system incorrectly targets and destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, resulting in a lack of insulin in the body. Multiple complications, including heart disease, blindness, nerve damage, can result. Diabetes affects over two million North Americans. It is the sixth leading cause of death and the single most costly chronic disease.

Abgenix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of fully human monoclonal antibody therapies for a variety of diseases. The company's antibody technology platform, which includes XenoMouse™ technology, enables the rapid generation and selection of high affinity, fully human antibody product candidates to essentially any disease target appropriate for antibody therapy. Abgenix leverages its leadership position in human antibody technology by building a large and diversified product portfolio through the establishment of licensing arrangements with multiple pharmaceutical, biotechnology and genomics companies and through the development of its own internal proprietary products. For more information on Abgenix, visit the company's website at [www.abgenix.com](http://www.abgenix.com).

Diabetogen Biosciences Inc. is a privately-held biotechnology company that discovers and designs new drugs for the treatment of autoimmune diseases. Its initial programs focus on therapeutics for the treatment, prevention and reversal of Type I (insulin-dependent) diabetes. As a spin-off of the John P. Robarts Research Institute, the company has the in-house expertise and capability to identify candidate therapeutics, determine their relevance to autoimmune disease and evaluate them for clinical trials. Diabetogen's aggressive business development strategy has led to exclusive licenses to leading proprietary compounds regulating different stages of autoimmunity. For more information on Diabetogen, visit the company's website at [www.diabetogen.com](http://www.diabetogen.com).

*Statements made in this press release about Abgenix's XenoMouse technology, product development activities and collaborative arrangements other than statements of historical fact, are forward looking statements and are subject to a number of uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the statements made, including risks associated with the success of clinical trials, the progress*

*of research and development programs, the regulatory approval process, competitive products, future capital requirements and the extent and breadth of Abgenix's patent portfolio. Please see Abgenix's public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for information about risks that may affect Abgenix.*

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