

## Phico Therapeutics granted Wellcome Trust Strategic Translational Award

**Reading, 29 January, 2009:** Phico Therapeutics announced this week that it had been granted a Wellcome Trust Strategic Translational Award totalling £1.03 million to cover Phase I and II trials of its lead candidate SASPject PT1.2 for decolonisation of MRSA and *S. aureus*. PT1.2 is based on a new class of antibacterial proteins called SASPs which bind to bacterial DNA resulting in rapid “speed of kill”. If successful, PT1.2 will provide a major new weapon in the fight against MRSA and other bacterial infections.

Dr Ted Bianco, Director of Technology Transfer at the Wellcome Trust commented: “There is an urgent need to develop innovative ways to manage the transmission of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the hospital and care-home environments. The approach being taken by Dr Fairhead and colleagues is imaginative and original. If successful, this technology may provide an important new tool in the fight against MRSA and other pathogenic bacteria.”

Flic Gabbay, a Senior Partner in TranScrip and Chairman of Phico has been instrumental in assisting Phico with the strategic development of the portfolio; at board level and within development decision-making processes and, with assistance from her team, has supported the successful award application.

According to Dr. Gabbay, “I am very proud of the team effort to help facilitate the development of the product, that addresses the continuing twin problems of transmission and drug-resistance. We are delighted that the Wellcome Trust see the potential of PT1.2. This award will enable Phico to conduct phase I and II clinical trials with results expected in Q3 2009 and Q3 2010 respectively.” It is anticipated that TranScrip Partners will continue to provide strategic and operational support to Phico.

### Notes to editors

TranScrip Partners LLP is a professional partnership of seasoned pharmaceutical professionals with expertise in different areas of drug development and commercialisation. This novel and fully flexible resourcing model offers layered, integrated teams of pharmaceutical professionals and allows mixing and matching of Senior Partners, Partners and Associates, as required. TranScrip’s infrastructure is designed to deliver a cost-efficient quality service, allowing Clients to access TranScrip Partners’ expertise on an “as needed” basis, to fill skill, experience and/or resource gaps, each project led by respected industry and academic leaders, highly skilled in a specific therapeutic and/or pharmaceutical sub-specialty and supported when and where necessary by other Partners and Associates, as has been demonstrated with Phico.

Phico Therapeutics Ltd was founded by Dr Heather Fairhead in September 2000 with seed funding from Cambridge Research and Innovation Ltd., (CRIL). The Company is developing a novel platform technology which has the potential to produce anti-bacterials active against all species of bacteria. Proof of principle of its platform technology, known as SASPject™ has been established in the Gram positive bacterium, *Staphylococcus aureus* (including MRSA) and the Gram negative bacterium, *Escherichia coli*. Initial products are aimed at species of bacteria where antibiotic resistance is a problem. The Company has raised over £5 M to date, including £1.4 M in 2008, from CRIL, Emblem Technology Partners, Providence Investment Company, Parallel Ventures and business angel syndicates, including Cambridge Capital Group, OION, Angels 5K and London Business Angels. The company is based at the Babraham Bioincubator.

The Wellcome Trust is the largest charity in the UK. It funds innovative biomedical research, in the UK and internationally, spending over £600 million each year to support the brightest scientists with the best ideas. The Wellcome Trust supports public debate about biomedical research and its impact on health and wellbeing. <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk>