

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND U.S. ARMY WILL FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE PHASE I/IIA TRIALS OF A NOVEL CLASS OF DRUG TREATMENT AIMED TO ELICIT INVOLUNTARY WALKING MOVEMENTS IN SPINAL CORD-INJURED PATIENTS**

**QUEBEC CITY, CANADA.** – Today, we announce that the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Army have accepted to entirely support financially the first clinical trials of **SPINALON™**. It is an innovative oral tritherapy aimed to acutely (15 min post-administration) trigger short episodes of walking (bouts of 30-45 min) on a treadmill in completely spinal cord-injured subjects. Preclinical data strongly suggest that **SPINALON™** is ideally suited to become a *first-in-class* therapy for spinal locomotor network activation, basic stepping movement generation and treadmill training in chronic and motor-complete spinal cord-injured individuals.

The preclinical and clinical development of **SPINALON™** has received preliminary approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) during a pre-IND (Investigational New Drug) meeting held on January 14th, 2010. Nordic Life Science Pipeline inc. has obtained in 2009, through an in-licensing agreement with Université Laval, the worldwide exclusive rights of developing and commercializing **SPINALON™**.

Upon Clinical Trial Approval (expected fall 2011), enrollment of ASIA-A and ASIA-B spinal cord-injured patients will begin near the end of the year. The trials, to be conducted at the McGill University Health Center (Montreal General Hospital), are planned to be completed by 2014. The study is designed to primarily assess safety, tolerability and maximum tolerated dose of **SPINALON™** in chronic spinal cord-injured individuals. Leg movement induction will be examined as a secondary endpoint.

#### **About SPINALON™**

Discovered in 2004 by Dr. Pierre Guertin at Université Laval, this tritherapy constitutes a novel class of drug treatment acting as a potent activator of the spinal locomotor network. It is constituted of already known and regulatory approved drugs normally used by patients with Parkinson's disease or anxiety. A recent NIH-sponsored study revealed that no evidence of toxicity is associated with this drug combination administered orally. It is aimed to become a treatment against secondary complications and comorbid problems associated with chronic paralysis.

#### **About Spinal Cord Injury**

Based on recent estimates, 1.3 million patients are currently living with a traumatic spinal cord injury in North America. It has thus become the second most common neurological problem after Alzheimer's disease.

#### **About Nordic Life Science Pipeline Inc.**

It is an emerging specialty pharmaceutical company that focuses on developing preclinical- and early clinical-stage therapeutics in the field of neurological diseases and trauma, sexual dysfunction, and aging. Founded in 2009, the company was originally created as a spin-off from Université Laval.

#### **About Université Laval**

Located in Quebec's historic capital, a World Heritage City, Université Laval is one of the first universities in North America (Laval 1663, Harvard 1636). Based on research funding, it ranks among the top ten in Canada.

#### **About U.S. Department of Defense/CDMRP grant application program**

The U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Army have established a grant application program called CDMRP (Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program) that financially supports, on a competitive basis, translational research and clinical trials of promising new therapies.