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Biocept Obtains Patent in Australia for its Molecular Biomarker Technology For the Detection of Cancer-Associated Mutations in Blood, Tissue, and Other Biological Sources

Expands intellectual property position to 22 issued patents globally for Biocept's highly sensitive methods for detecting cancer biomarkers in circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) and on circulating tumor cells (CTCs)

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 4, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Biocept, Inc. (NASDAQ: BIOC), a leading commercial provider of liquid biopsy tests designed to provide physicians with clinically actionable information to improve the outcomes of patients diagnosed with cancer, announces the issuance of Australian Patent No. 2012250516, entitled METHODS FOR DETECTING NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCE VARIANTS. This is the second issued patent for Biocept's Target Selector™ assays for molecular analysis using real-time PCR, Sanger sequencing and next generation sequencing (NGS). Consistent with Biocept's recently issued U.S. patent, the Australian patent encompasses Biocept's proprietary "switch-blocker" technology, which enriches patient specimens for oncogene mutations of interest, resulting in ultra-high sensitivity and specificity for the detection of cancer-associated mutations found in blood, tissue, and other biological sources.



"The issuance of this patent further supports the unique and proprietary technology that differentiates our highly sensitive ctDNA platform technology," said Lyle Arnold, Ph.D., Biocept's Chief Scientific Officer. "With the patents and technology for our CTC capture and analysis as well as our blood transport tubes, we believe that Biocept's intellectual property position in the liquid biopsy segment is robust."

Michael Nall, Biocept's President and CEO, added, "Obtaining this new patent provides additional intellectual property protection for the unique and novel features of our Target Selector™ ctDNA platform and expands the opportunity to generate sales in territories outside the U.S. We are pleased to receive the second patent for our highly sensitive and specific molecular technology."

About ctDNA Target Selector™ Technology

The "switch-blocker" technology covered by this patent, as well as the earlier issued U.S. Patent No. 9,834,817 is applicable to a broad range of molecular genomic platforms, including real-time PCR, digital PCR, Sanger sequencing, NGS, arrays, mass-spec, and capillary detection systems. This technology allows normal (wild-type) nucleic acid material (such as normal DNA) to be significantly blocked from amplification, while genetic alterations associated with cancer are able to be amplified. This method greatly increases the detection sensitivity of genetic alterations such as cancer mutations in low abundance, as the "noise" associated with normal genetic sequences is largely eliminated.

Biocept's switch-blocker technology also has the advantage of reducing the cost of running assays, like NGS assays, by approximately 100-1,000-fold, since the expense of sequencing large amounts of uninformative wild-type nucleic acid is eliminated.

In clinical validation studies, Biocept has demonstrated, with a high degree of correlation, the ability to detect the same biomarkers in blood that were identified from tissue biopsy of solid tumors. Using a blood specimen to provide information on biomarkers found on solid tumors offers the benefits of providing information on tumor markers when tissue biopsy is not an option, reducing the risks and costs of biopsy relative to tissue, has convenience advantages, and can enable the ability to non-invasively conduct serial monitoring of patient specimens over time.

About Biocept

Biocept, Inc. is a molecular diagnostics company with commercialized assays for lung, breast, gastric, colorectal and prostate cancers, and melanoma. The Company leverages its proprietary liquid biopsy technology to provide physicians with clinically actionable information for treating and monitoring patients diagnosed with cancer. Biocept's patented Target Selector™ liquid biopsy technology platforms capture and analyze tumor-associated molecular markers on circulating tumor cells (CTCs) and in circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA). With thousands of tests performed, the platform has demonstrated the ability to identify cancer mutations and alterations to inform physicians about a patient's disease and therapeutic options. For additional information, please visit www.biocept.com.

Forward-Looking Statements Disclaimer Statement

This news release contains forward-looking statements that are based upon current expectations or beliefs, as well as a number of assumptions about future events. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements and the assumptions upon which they are based are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations and assumptions will prove to be correct. Forward-looking statements are generally identifiable by the use of words like "may," "will," "should," "could," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "believe," "intend" or "project," or the negative of these words or other variations on these words or comparable terminology. To the extent that statements in this news release are not strictly historical, including, without limitation, statements as to our ability to improve the outcomes of cancer patients, the utility and effectiveness of our intellectual property protections, our ability to obtain additional patents in the future covering our proprietary liquid biopsy technology, our ability to generate sales in territories outside the U.S., and the perceived benefits of our proprietary liquid biopsy technology, such statements are forward-looking, and are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The reader is cautioned not to put undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, as these statements are subject to numerous risk factors as set forth in our Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings. The effects of such risks and uncertainties could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this news release. We do not plan to update any such forward-looking statements and expressly disclaim any duty to update the information contained in this press release except as required by law. Readers are advised to review our filings with the SEC at www.sec.gov

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