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Biocept Enters Clinical Collaboration With University of California, San Diego Moores Cancer Center

SAN DIEGO, March 24, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Biocept, Inc. (Nasdaq:BIOC), a molecular oncology diagnostics company specializing in biomarker analysis of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) and circulating tumor cells (CTCs), today announced that it has entered into a clinical collaboration with University of California, San Diego Moores Cancer Center to determine the clinical utility of detecting biomarkers present in CTCs and ctDNA in blood samples for non-small cell lung cancer patients using Biocept's OncoCEE™ LU platform and CEE Selector™ technology.

Biocept offers a highly sensitive and quantitative blood-based method for the detection and monitoring of cancer mutations, which can help inform treatment decisions based on genomic information. The Company is engaged in clinical study collaborations designed to demonstrate the utility of its liquid biopsy diagnostics to detect biomarker status in cancer patients, and for the assessment of tumor treatment response over time.

"Genetic alterations and mutations are observed in non-small cell lung cancer, the most prevalent of all lung cancers. We are interested in determining and monitoring the molecular status in patients with lung cancer who are progressing despite treatment with first-line therapy," said Hatim Husain, MD, an assistant professor of hematology-oncology at University of California, San Diego Moores Cancer Center. "A serious clinical challenge in treating this disease is to obtain lung tissue biopsies. Severe complications from these biopsy procedures can occur and are associated with significant cost. A blood-based liquid biopsy could reduce the need to conduct lung tissue biopsies, and also offers the ability to obtain critical genomic information for improved patient management on a more frequent basis."

"Thanks to rapid advances in precision medicine, clinicians and researchers understanding of lung cancer biology and the underlying genetic alterations that drive it, is growing," said Michael Nall, CEO of Biocept. "Select targeted drug therapies are currently available and many other therapies are in clinical trials. These therapies are designed to treat cancer patients with specific genetic alterations. Our blood tests enable physicians to detect and monitor genetic changes of a patient's tumor over time in order to most effectively treat the cancer, forgoing the need for an invasive surgical biopsy. As cancer becomes a chronic disease, we believe that the clinical information provided by our blood test ordered either at the time of diagnosis or during treatment for monitoring will improve the efficacy of targeted cancer treatment and help provide solutions for the issue of acquired resistance."

"By monitoring the levels of the resistance markers using Biocept's highly sensitive blood test, the recurrence of disease in patients being treated with targeted therapies becomes more predictable," said Lyle Arnold, Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer for Biocept. "Having accurate, sensitive and quantifiable current genomic information related to a patient's tumor is a major advance and we believe it will become the standard of care."

About Biocept

Biocept, Inc., headquartered in San Diego, Calif., is a commercial-stage oncology diagnostics company focused on providing information on patients' tumors to physicians using its proprietary technology platform to help improve individual patient treatment. Biocept has developed proprietary technology platforms for capture and analysis of circulating tumor DNA, both in CTCs and in plasma (ctDNA). A standard blood sample is utilized to provide physicians with important prognostic and predictive information to enhance individual treatment of their patients with cancer. Biocept currently offers its OncoCEE-GA™ test for gastric cancer, OncoCEE-BR™ test for breast cancer and OncoCEE-LU™ test for non-small cell lung cancer and plans to introduce CLIA validated tests for colorectal, prostate and other solid tumors based on its proprietary technology platforms over the coming months.

Forward-Looking Statements Disclaimer Statement

This 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 have been 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 release are not strictly historical, including without limitation statements as to improvement of outcomes, our impact on diagnostic strategies and planned future offerings, 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 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, which can be accessed over the Internet at the SEC's website located at www.sec.gov.

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