Visterra to Present New Preclinical Results on VIS649, its Antibody for the Treatment of IgA Nephropathy, at the American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week Conference

- VIS649 Reduced Serum IgA, with Favorable Safety Profile, in Cynomolgus Monkeys -

- Collaboration with Juntendo University Demonstrated that an Anti-APRIL Antibody Reduced Kidney Immune Complexes and Proteinuria in a Mouse IgA Nephropathy Model -

Cambridge, MA – October 31, 2017 – Visterra, Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company, today announced that four posters related to the company's product candidate, VIS649, a novel monoclonal antibody in development for the treatment of IgA nephropathy (IgAN), will be presented at the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Kidney Week Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 2–5, 2017. IgAN, also known as Berger's disease, is a kidney disease in which immunoglobulin A (IgA) and antibodies to it build up in the kidney tissue, resulting in the kidneys becoming inflamed and damaged over time, and ultimately causing kidney failure.

The preclinical data presented at Kidney Week highlight efficacy, safety, and pharmacokinetic results from both a study where a Visterra engineered anti-APRIL antibody was administered to a mouse model of IgAN and from a study of repeat dosing of VIS649 in cynomolgus monkeys. The overall dataset demonstrates the potential of VIS649 to reduce circulating IgA levels, immune complexes deposited in the kidneys, and proteinuria, while suggesting a favorable safety profile.

"We are very pleased with the VIS649 preclinical results to date, which encompass studies that we have conducted, as well as studies conducted by our esteemed collaborators at Juntendo University Faculty of Medicine in Japan," said Brian J.G. Pereira, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Visterra. "We look forward to sharing these encouraging data at this important international meeting of leaders in the kidney disease field. VIS649 is a first-in-class monoclonal antibody targeting the cytokine APRIL, which we believe is an attractive target for the treatment of IgAN, the commonest glomerular disease worldwide, with no currently disease-specific approved therapy. Our preclinical results support the continued development of VIS649 as a treatment for IgAN."

The VIS649 data presentations at the ASN Kidney Week Conference are as follows:

Poster Number PO044: Discovery and Engineering of VIS649, a First-In-Class Humanized IgG2 Targeting APRIL for the Treatment of IgA Nephropathy
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017
Session Title: Glomerular: Basic/Experimental Immunology and Inflammation - I
Presentation Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Poster Number PO045: Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics of VIS649, a First-in-Class Humanized IgG2 Targeting APRIL for the Treatment of IgA Nephropathy, in Healthy Cynomolgus Monkeys
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017
Session Title: Glomerular: Basic/Experimental Immunology and Inflammation - I
Presentation Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Poster Number PO046: Preclinical Safety Profile of VIS649, a First-In-Class Humanized IgG2 Targeting APRIL for the Treatment of IgA Nephropathy
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017
Session Title: Glomerular: Basic/Experimental Immunology and Inflammation - I
Presentation Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Poster Number PO709: Antibody-Based Targeting of APRIL as a Therapeutic Strategy in the Treatment of IgA Nephropathy - A Case Study in Grouped ddY Mouse Model
Date: Friday, November 3, 2017
Session Title: Glomerular: Basic/Experimental Pathology - II
Presentation Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

About VIS649

VIS649 is Visterra's first product candidate targeting an endogenous protein. VIS649 is an IgG2 monoclonal antibody designed and engineered using the company's Hierotope® platform to target the cytokine APRIL (A Proliferation Inducing Ligand) and neutralize its biological activity. VIS649 is in development for the treatment for IgA nephropathy, a kidney disease for which currently there is no specifically approved therapy, and Visterra expects to initiate Phase 1 clinical trials of VIS649 in 2018.

About IgA Nephropathy (IgAN)

IgAN is the most common cause of primary glomerular disease worldwide. The annual incidence rate of IgAN has been estimated in scientific literature to be at least 25 cases per million individuals worldwide, with a higher incidence in Eastern Asian populations and lower incidence in African populations. The company estimates that there are approximately 3,200 new cases of IgAN in the U.S. each year and approximately 185,000 worldwide. IgAN is an autoimmune disease wherein a respiratory or gastrointestinal mucosal infection in susceptible individuals can lead to production of "a-g" IgA, an abnormal form of IgA. Unlike normal IgA, "a-g" IgA induces the production of antibodies and results in the formation of disease causing immune complexes. These immune complexes get deposited in the kidney and lead to kidney inflammation, hematuria, proteinuria and progressive kidney damage. Patients ultimately progress to kidney failure or end-stage kidney disease and require dialysis or kidney transplantation in 20%-40% of cases over 20 years after diagnosis. Currently, there is no disease-specific therapies approved for the treatment of IgAN.

About Visterra

Visterra is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on applying its novel Hierotope® platform to identify unique disease targets and to design and engineer precision antibody-based biological medicines against such targets that are not adequately addressed with conventional approaches. These targets include infectious organisms such as viruses, bacteria and fungi, which have a high degree of diversity among strains with frequent mutations. Visterra's technology is also uniquely capable of engineering biological medicines that selectively modify the activity of endogenous targets that have limited surface area, are hard to access, have dynamic structures, and/or are similar to other proteins in the body that should be avoided. Visterra's lead product candidate, VIS410, is a monoclonal antibody in development as a single-dose administration for the treatment of hospitalized patients with influenza A, regardless of the viral strain. The company's other product candidates are VIS649, a monoclonal antibody in development for the treatment of IgA nephropathy, VIS513, a monoclonal antibody in development as a single-dose administration for the treatment of dengue, and VIS705, an antibody-drug conjugate being developed as a single-dose curative therapy, engineered to kill all strains of the deadly *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria, including potentially multi-drug resistant strains. In addition, Visterra has applied its Hierotope platform to develop novel modifications to the Fc region of an antibody, to enhance half-life by as much as ten-fold while maintaining and often improving effector function. These capabilities, called ViStar™ antibody Fc engineering, support the development of long-acting monoclonal antibodies for the extended protection in infectious diseases and less frequent administration in chronic diseases. For more information, visit www.visterrainc.com.

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