

Summit Corporation plc
("Summit" or "the Company")

**SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF FURTHER RESEARCH MILESTONE IN
C. DIFFICILE PROGRAMME**

- **SMT 19969 Nominated as Preclinical Development Candidate**
- **Summit to receive £925,000 payment**

Oxford, UK, 12 May 2011, Summit (AIM: SUMM), a UK drug discovery Company, announces that it has nominated SMT 19969 as the preclinical development candidate in its programme developing new antibiotics that target infection caused by the hospital 'superbug' *Clostridium difficile* ('*C. difficile*').

The selection of SMT 19969 as the development candidate achieves a further research milestone in Summit's collaboration with the Wellcome Trust and has triggered a £925,000 payment to Summit to advance SMT 19969 towards clinical trials.

Clostridium difficile infection ('CDI') represents a serious medical issue in hospitals and long-term care homes and there is growing concern about its spread to the wider community. The combined annual cost of care in Europe and North America is estimated at over \$7 billion.

Current treatment options are limited and are associated with high levels of recurrent disease, which is the major clinical issue since repeat episodes of infection are often more severe. The increase in disease severity due to infection with established and emerging hyper-virulent *C. difficile* strains, including BI/NAP1/027, also represents a significant medical concern.

A Targeted Antibiotic for the Treatment of *C. difficile* Infection

SMT 19969 is a novel, small molecule, oral antibiotic that has the potential to become the front-line drug for the treatment of CDI.

The nominated candidate has been selected from a series of compounds discovered by scientists at Summit. SMT 19969 will now advance through formal preclinical development studies, the successful completion of which will enable it to enter human clinical trials. Summit anticipates that an application to regulatory authorities to commence clinical trials will be submitted in Q3 2012.

Non-clinical efficacy studies show that SMT 19969 is targeted exclusively to the site of infection in the GI tract and has potent activity against all known clinical isolates of *C. difficile*, including the endemic hyper-virulent strains. Compared with antibiotics currently on the market or in development, SMT 19969 has unprecedented selectivity for *C. difficile* bacteria which leaves the healthy gut bacteria unharmed. It is this narrow spectrum of activity, and resultant lack of disruption to healthy gut bacteria, that is important in naturally preventing the recurrence of CDI and improving the prognosis for patients.

Additionally, unlike other CDI drugs, studies to date show *C. difficile* has not developed any resistance to SMT 19969. The preclinical drug candidate also has an excellent safety profile following the assessment in a series of *in vivo* and *in vitro* toxicology studies.

Dr Barry Price, Executive Chairman of Summit commented: "Summit is very excited at the prospects for SMT 19969 as a preclinical development candidate because we firmly believe it has the ideal profile to become the antibiotic of choice for the treatment of *C. difficile* infection.

“The financial support of the Wellcome Trust has allowed our scientists to generate a data package that shows SMT 19969 can address the key clinical issues associated with CDI and its anti-bacterial profile is superior to existing therapy options.”

Summit's *C. difficile* programme has been supported by a prestigious Seeding Drug Discovery Award from the Wellcome Trust. **Dr Tim Knott, Business Development Manager at the Wellcome Trust added**, “*C. difficile* continues to pose a significant healthcare threat and this advancement in Summit's programme represents a major step forward towards the development of new and effective antibiotic treatments.”

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Notes to Editors

About *C. difficile* infections

Clostridium difficile infection ('CDI') is a significant medical problem in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and in the wider community. It is a serious illness caused by infection of the inner lining of the colon by *C. difficile* bacteria, which produces toxins that cause inflammation of the colon, severe diarrhoea and, in the most serious cases, death. Patients typically develop CDI from the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics that disrupt normal gastrointestinal (gut) flora, and thus allowing *C. difficile* bacteria to flourish.

Current therapeutic options for CDI include the off-label use of metronidazole and oral vancomycin, the only FDA-approved treatment. However, approximately 20% to 30% of CDI patients who initially respond to these treatments experience a clinical recurrence following cessation of antibiotic administration.

Primary risk factors for CDI include broad-spectrum antibiotic use (eg cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones that effect a wide range of bacteria), advanced age (over 65) and exposure to emerging hyper-virulent strains (BI/NAP1/027) of *C. difficile*. Increasing incidence, higher treatment failures and recurrence with current therapies have resulted in greater awareness and concern of CDI among medical professionals and public health officials.

About Summit

Summit is an Oxford, UK based drug discovery company with an innovative technology platform called Seglins™ for the discovery of new medicines, a portfolio of drug programme assets and a commercial strategy of signing multiple early-stage deals.

Seglin™ technology is using new chemistry to access biological drug targets that cannot be exploited by conventional drug discovery approaches. Summit's internal research is currently focussed in the high-

value therapy areas and the Company will further exploit the technology's wider potential through strategic alliances. Summit's programme portfolio consists of a number of drug programmes targeting high-value areas of unmet medical need including Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and *C. difficile* infection.

Summit's commercial strategy focuses on signing multiple early-stage drug programme and technology platform deals that generate upfront cash, remove development costs from the Company, and retain valuable upside potential.

Summit is listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange and trades under the ticker symbol SUMM. Further information is available at www.summitplc.com.

About the Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. It supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. The Trust's breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests.

www.wellcome.ac.uk