

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

**BIOMARIN INITIATES PHASE 1 CLINICAL STUDY OF SMT C1100 FOR
DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY**

Oxford, UK, 12 January 2010, Summit (AIM: SUMM), a leading UK drug discovery company with a portfolio of partnered drug programmes and an innovative iminosugar technology platform, is pleased to note that one of the Company's partners, BioMarin Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Nasdaq: BMRN), announced on 11 January 2010 that it has initiated a Phase 1 clinical study of SMT C1100 (also known as BMN 195). SMT C1100 is a small molecule utrophin upregulator for the treatment of the fatal genetic disorder Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). BioMarin indicated that initial top-line results are expected in Q3 2010.

The DMD programme is one of eight drug programmes that form Summit's partnered product portfolio. This portfolio requires no further investment from Summit but has contractual, success based development, regulatory and sales milestone payments totalling over \$160 million plus sales royalties of up to 13%.

The Phase 1 clinical trial is a single centre, double blind, placebo-controlled, single dose-escalation study followed by a multiple-dose study of SMT C1100 administered orally in healthy volunteers. The primary objective is to assess the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of SMT C1100 in healthy volunteers, and enable subsequent studies in patients with DMD.

Commenting on this news, Steven Lee, PhD, Chief Executive Officer of Summit said, "This is a significant and exciting development for Summit and the Duchenne muscular dystrophy programme, which was partnered with BioMarin in a multi-million dollar deal in July 2008.

"This programme was one of Summit's original drug discovery programmes and it was the work of our scientists that identified SMT C1100 as a potential first in class treatment for DMD. The advances made since partnering the programme endorse our belief that BioMarin, with their unparalleled track record in developing orphan drugs to market, are the best partner to develop SMT C1100 into a medicine in the shortest possible timeframe for the benefit of all DMD patients."

Jean-Jacques Bienaimé, Chief Executive Officer of BioMarin added, "Duchenne muscular dystrophy represents a serious unmet medical need affecting approximately 40,000 patients in the developed world, and we are excited to advance our program into the clinic in hopes of providing the first therapeutic option to treat this disease, SMT C1100 has been shown to upregulate utrophin levels in human muscle cells, as a means of augmenting muscle function. In mice with mutations in the normal dystrophin gene, SMT C1100 has been shown to improve strength. Therefore, SMT C1100 may have the potential to treat the entire spectrum of DMD patients, regardless of the type of genetic abnormality."

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About Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a fatal neuromuscular disorder that affects 1 in 3,500 boys with an estimated patient population of over 40,000 in the developed world.

DMD is caused by a genetic defect that results in DMD patients lacking an important protein called dystrophin, which is crucial to maintaining muscle integrity and function. The absence of dystrophin results in extensive muscle wasting in all voluntary muscles as well as the heart and breathing muscles and causes severe restriction in the mobility of DMD patients by their early teens and is ultimately fatal, generally in their twenties. Currently there is no cure for DMD. Corticosteroid treatment is the only frontline therapy and acts to only delay the progression of the disease.

About SMT C1100

SMT C1100 (also known as BMN-195) is a proprietary, orally available small molecule with a novel mechanism of action for DMD. SMT C1100 acts by increasing expression of utrophin, an endogenous protein that is functionally similar to dystrophin. The goal of therapy would be to preserve muscle function and prevent the inexorable decline in strength seen in DMD patients. Summit and BioMarin believes the primary advantage of SMT C1100 is that it offers the potential to treat the entire DMD patient population, regardless of the mutation the patient carries.

About BioMarin

BioMarin develops and commercializes innovative biopharmaceuticals for serious diseases and medical conditions. The company's product portfolio comprises four approved products and multiple clinical and pre-clinical product candidates. Approved products include Naglazyme® (galsulfase) for mucopolysaccharidosis VI (MPS VI), a product wholly developed and commercialized by BioMarin; Aldurazyme® (laronidase) for mucopolysaccharidosis I (MPS I), a product which BioMarin developed through a 50/50 joint venture with Genzyme Corporation; Kuvan® (sapropterin dihydrochloride) Tablets, for phenylketonuria (PKU), developed in partnership with Merck Serono, a division of Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany; and 3,4-diaminopyridine (amifampridine phosphate), which has been approved by the European Commission for the treatment of Lambert Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome (LEMS). For additional information, please visit www.BMRN.com. Information on BioMarin's website is not incorporated by reference into this press release.

About Summit plc

Summit plc is a leading UK based drug discovery company with a portfolio of partnered drug programmes and a major focus on developing new therapeutics from its iminosugar drug discovery platform.

Summit has a commercial track of signing programme agreements and currently has a product portfolio comprising of eight drug programmes with partners including BioMarin, Orient Pharma, Evolva, the Wellcome Trust and the Lilly TB Drug Discovery Initiative. This portfolio requires no further investment from Summit but in the future may generate success based milestone payments and sales royalties for the Company.

Summit believes iminosugars are the key to gaining access to several disease mechanisms where classical drug candidates have had little success, and therefore offer a major opportunity for the discovery and development of new medicines.

Carbohydrates play critical roles in maintaining correct function of many normal processes in healthy individuals and provide a wealth of new targets for drug discovery. Iminosugars have the capability of accessing such targets and offer the potential of generating new medicines in a variety of major therapy areas. Summit is currently focussed on metabolic diseases, including diabetes, and anti-virals.

The company listed on the alternative investment market (AIM) of the London Stock Exchange in October 2004 - symbol: SUMM. Further information about the company is available at www.summitplc.com.

Forward Looking Statements

This document contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "seeks", "believes", "estimates", "expects" and similar references to future periods, or by the inclusion of forecasts or projections.

Forward-looking statements are based on the Company's current expectations and assumptions regarding our business, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, by their nature, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. The Company's actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. The Company cautions you therefore that you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements as statements of historical fact or as guarantees or assurances of future performance. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements and regional, national, global political, economic, business, competitive, market and regulatory conditions.