

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

POSITIVE RESULTS REPORTED IN *CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE* PROGRAMME

- **Proof of concept established in non-clinical efficacy studies**
- **SMT 19969 shown to be superior to existing treatment options**

Oxford, UK, 12 October 2010, Summit (AIM: SUMM), a UK drug discovery Company, today announces positive results from its Wellcome Trust funded proprietary programme to develop a new, differentiated class of antibiotics targeting the 'superbug' *Clostridium difficile* ('*C. difficile*').

C. difficile is a life-threatening bacterium for which the only current therapy options are broad spectrum antibiotics that are associated with high rates of recurrent *C. difficile* infection ('CDI'). In 2009 in the UK, CDI was responsible for approximately five times more deaths than MRSA while the combined annual cost of care in Europe and North America is estimated at \$7.0 billion.

Commenting on the results, **Steven Lee, Chief Executive Officer at Summit said:** "*The positive results reported demonstrate the tremendous progress that our C. difficile programme has made, and with the financial support of the Wellcome Trust, Summit looks forward to continuing to advance SMT 19969 through to human clinical trials.*"

Results of Non-clinical Efficacy Studies

SMT 19969 meets the target profile for a new *C. difficile* antibiotic, namely: Potency against the bacterium; a very narrow spectrum of activity to prevent recurrence of CDI; and an excellent resistance profile. The positive results from these non-clinical efficacy studies show SMT 19969 has the potential to become a differentiated front-line therapy, with superiority over existing treatment options:

- Provides total protection from both initial infection and recurrence in the *in vivo* gold standard model of CDI
- Potent activity against a comprehensive panel of *C. difficile* clinical isolates including the endemic, hyper-virulent 027/BI/NAP1 strain
- A significantly narrower spectrum of activity than any other *C. difficile* antibiotic
- No anti-bacterial effect on, or damage to gut flora
- Unprecedented, low levels of resistance development
- Targeted to the site of infection and shown to have a good safety profile

In addition, a strong backup programme has been established that has identified compounds with comparable profile to SMT 19969.

Summit has worked closely in the development of SMT 19969 with a number of key opinion leaders in the field. **Professor Mark Wilcox, Consultant and Clinical Director of Microbiology & Pathology at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and the Health Protection Agency's leader on *C. difficile* infection in England commented:** "*There is a paucity of treatment options available for C. difficile infection (CDI). A measure of an antibiotic's success in treating CDI may relate to minimising its detrimental effects on gut flora. In vitro, in vivo and human gut model data for SMT 19969 show evidence of efficacy in this difficult treatment area, whilst minimising its effects on gut flora.*"

Infectious disease expert **William Weiss, Director of Pre-Clinical Services at the University of North Texas Health Science Centre in Fort Worth**, who performed the *in vivo* studies, added: *“These results are very promising and show that SMT 19969 exhibits a clearly defined antibiotic effect and is superior to currently approved treatment options. If these results are replicated in man, SMT 19969 has the potential to become a new and highly effective antibiotic for the treatment of C. difficile infections.”*

Summit’s *C. difficile* programme, including SMT 19969, is being supported by a prestigious grant from the Wellcome Trust that will fund the programme through to the start of human clinical trials. **Dr Rick Davis, Business Development Manager at the Wellcome Trust said:** *“C. difficile infection poses a serious healthcare challenge and there is a pressing need to develop new antibiotic treatments. The Wellcome Trust is pleased with the excellent progress Summit has made towards development of a potential new treatment.”*

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Notes to Editors

About *C. difficile*

Clostridium difficile infection (‘CDI’) has become a significant medical problem in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and in the 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 (027/BI/NAP1) 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 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

About Summit plc

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 partner funded 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 of metabolic and infectious diseases 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 that require no further investment from the Company but have the potential to deliver future upside for the business.

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.

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.