

Summit Corporation plc
(*'Summit' or 'the Company'*)

SMT C1100 RECEIVES ORPHAN DRUG STATUS FROM THE US FDA FOR THE TREATMENT OF DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Oxford, UK, 24 November 2011, Summit (AIM: SUMM), a UK drug discovery company, is pleased to announce that the United States Food & Drug Administration ('the US FDA') has granted orphan drug status to the clinical candidate SMT C1100 for the treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy ('DMD'), a fatal genetic neuromuscular disorder for which there is currently no cure. The European Medicines Agency had granted SMT C1100 orphan drug status in December 2008.

Commenting on the news, Barry Price, PhD, Executive Chairman of Summit said:

"We are pleased the US FDA has designated SMT C1100 as an orphan drug for DMD as this recognises its potential to treat a major unmet medical need. Our clinical candidate has now been granted orphan drug status both in Europe and the US, and this status will provide additional regulatory support and various commercial benefits including extended periods of market exclusivity.

"Summit believes that SMT C1100 can become a first-in-class treatment for DMD and it is our intention to commence a clinical study that will evaluate a new formulation of this drug that will benefit all patients with this fatal disease."

About Orphan Drug Designation

An orphan drug is a pharmaceutical agent that has been developed specifically to treat a rare medical condition, the condition itself being referred to as an orphan disease. The US Orphan Drug Act and European Orphan legislation are designed to assist and encourage companies in the development of urgently needed drugs for the treatment of rare diseases. Orphan drug designation has a number of benefits including a valuable seven-year period of market exclusivity in the US following approval. In Europe, a ten-year period of exclusivity is provided. Orphan products can also expect to receive additional regulatory support, reduced fees and accelerated approval. Further information about orphan drug designation can be found on the FDA's website, www.fda.com/oprhan.

About DMD and SMT C1100

DMD is caused by the absence of a protein called dystrophin which results in the degeneration of all skeletal and other vital muscles such as the heart. There is no cure for DMD with the only available treatments being steroids that provide symptomatic relief.

SMT C1100 is a small molecule drug that works by increasing (upregulating) production of a similar, naturally occurring protein called utrophin to replace the missing dystrophin. Summit recently published compelling preclinical data showing SMT C1100 can increase utrophin production to restore and maintain healthy muscle function. A major advantage of utrophin upregulation is it will benefit all patients with DMD regardless of their specific genetic mutation and is expected to be complementary with other therapeutic approaches currently in development.

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Notes to Editors

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 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, transfer 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.