POSITIVE RESULTS TO BE REPORTED AT INTERNATIONAL ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE CONFERENCE

- Novel Seglin enzyme inhibitors target potential disease modifying approach
- Results illustrate potential of Summit’s Seglin™ technology platform

Oxford, UK, 30 June 2011, Summit Corporation plc (AIM: SUMM), a UK drug discovery company, is pleased to report positive data from its programme to develop a treatment for Alzheimer’s disease and other neurological disorders, through the targeting of O-linked N-acetylglucosaminidase (‘OGA’), an enzyme that represents a potential disease modifying approach for the treatment of the disease. The results were generated using Summit’s proprietary Seglin™ technology drug discovery platform.

Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive and debilitating neurodegenerative disorder and is the most common form of dementia, with symptoms including memory loss, change in mood and personality, and a decline in cognitive abilities. One of the characteristics of Alzheimer’s disease is the formation in the brain of tangles of abnormal proteins that are believed to be a major factor in the progression of the disease. A protein called tau maintains the healthy function of nerve cells in the brain, but in Alzheimer’s patients abnormal tau protein is found in the brain which destabilises cells and results in the formation of toxic protein tangles and ultimately disease symptoms.

The enzyme OGA has emerged as a target in the search for drugs to treat Alzheimer’s disease as its inhibition reduces levels of abnormal tau protein in the brain, meaning that OGA has the potential to protect nerve cells and prevent formation of toxic protein tangles. Using the Company’s innovative Seglin drug discovery platform, Summit has developed novel, potent and very selective small molecule inhibitors of the OGA enzyme. Initial proof of concept has been established in human cell models with Seglin compounds being shown to significantly reduce the levels of abnormal tau protein. Further in vitro evaluation shows that the active Seglins exhibit no cell toxicity (cytotoxicity).

The results will be presented at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease 2011 (‘ICAD 2011’) which is being held in Paris on 16-21 July 2011.

Dr Barry Price, Executive Chairman of Summit commented, “Alzheimer’s disease represents an area of high unmet medical need with current treatments only providing symptomatic relief. The development by our scientists of highly potent, yet selective Seglins that inhibit the enzyme OGA is encouraging as this target represents a potentially disease modifying approach for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

“These results are also significant because they further illustrate the potential of our Seglin™ technology to become a major source of new medicines, as we anticipate our platform generating potent drug leads with a large number of other drug targets.”

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Notes to Editors

About Alzheimer’s Disease
Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive and debilitating neurodegenerative disorder and is the most common form of dementia. In 2010 it was estimated that there were 35 million people suffering from dementia globally. Symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease include memory loss, change in mood and personality, and a decline in cognitive abilities. The precise cause of Alzheimer’s disease is not known but it is generally thought to be due to multiple factors rather than a single cause. The greatest risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease is advancing age with most patients being age 65 or over. One of the characteristics of the disease is the formation of tangles in the brain which are caused by the aggregation of a protein called tau. Alzheimer’s disease is one of a number of neurodegenerative diseases where tau aggregates are found in the brain, and collectively these diseases are known as ‘tauopathies’.

Existing Alzheimer’s disease treatments only provide symptomatic relief and there remains a high need for the development of new, disease modifying medicines that affect the progression of the disease. The global disease treatment market for Alzheimer’s disease is currently estimated to be worth $8.3 billion, a figure that is expected to rise with the development of disease modifying drugs.

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.