



## European Patent for Injectable Scaffold Delivery System

### Locate Therapeutics Ltd. - Notice of grant of EU patent for injectable scaffold delivery system

NOTTINGHAM, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – Locate Therapeutics Ltd (“Locate”), the regenerative medicine and devices company, has received notification that it will be granted a new patent covering its TAOS™ (Tailored Orchestrated Signalling matrix) technology across Europe (European Patent No. 2 125 048).

The TAOS™ system provides an optimal structure to support tissue repair, whilst also precisely delivering and promoting the actions of locally-applied drugs and emergent biological & cell-based therapies. Locate’s lead product under development is a dual function tissue scaffold/drug-releasing depot designed for osteoinductive orthopaedic repairs. The broad utility of the TAOS™ platform has also led to a number of partnered development programs in other areas of application.

TAOS™ is designed to overcome the limitations of existing injectables for regenerative medicine applications. The product post-injection has both open macroporosity and mechanical strength, whilst solidifying by a novel, biologically-friendly mechanism. TAOS™ further presents a number of unique advantages for the localised delivery of actives. It is able to facilitate sustained release profiles over weeks to months, and the versatility of the system provides advantages when developing formulations for drugs with narrow therapeutic indices. Its use in cell delivery is intended to improve cell viability and localisation, and to provide control over cell fate. Cells can be pre-attached to the scaffold particles, or entrapped within the solidifying matrix.

Robin Quirk, Managing Director of Locate commented: "This notice of grant further strengthens our existing patent estate around TAOS™. We believe that this expanding portfolio of intellectual property gives Locate a unique position from which we can build a strong identity providing delivery matrices for regenerative medicine applications".

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#### About Locate

Locate is a privately-owned University of Nottingham spin-out company, which has been formed around the research interests of Professor Kevin Shakesheff who is Director of the Wolfson Centre for Stem Cells, Tissue Engineering and Modeling (STEM) at the University of Nottingham. Professor Shakesheff’s inventions and scientific breakthroughs have resulted in over 220 peer-reviewed full papers that have been cited more than 6,000 times to date. He currently holds a prestigious European Research Council Advanced Grant within an active research portfolio of more than £10 million. In 2013 he was appointed as Director of the UK Regenerative Medicine Platform Hub in Acellular Technologies.

More than £2.5m of grant funding, including £1m from the Wellcome Trust, has already been invested in the development of TAOS™, which has been robustly validated in a number of important regenerative medicine and drug delivery applications. These have attracted a number of important early specialty pharma and cell therapy research and development partners underlining the commercial potential of the technology and the company. Since start of 2014, Locate has been working on to develop a TAOS™ drug/device combination product for osteoinductive bone repair applications. This work is part-sponsored by Innovate UK, whom awarded Locate a £1.39m grant over three years.

For more information about Locate Therapeutics please contact:

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