



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAMBRIA BIOSCIENCES UNVEILS NOVEL EPILEPSY DRUG DISCOVERY PROGRAM AT THE NEUROTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE

WOBURN, MA - May 17th, 2007 - Cambria Biosciences today unveiled a novel approach to discovering epilepsy drugs by utilizing an intact animal nervous system engineered for high-throughput screening. The process was described in a presentation made by Dr. Leo Liu, President and Chief Executive Officer at Cambria, at the 2nd Annual Neurotechnology Industry Organization Conference. The Company is currently using this discovery platform to build a pipeline of new epilepsy drug leads.

Dr. Liu explained, "Genetic studies have shown that epilepsy genes and proteins are highly conserved between fruit flies and humans. Cambria has engineered a high-throughput *in vivo* disease model that utilizes the whole neuronal circuit system of the fruit fly, which allows us to more quickly and effectively identify compounds with potential activity against epilepsy that possess new mechanisms of action. Using this approach, we can analyze more compounds in a matter of months than have been tested in the past 30 years for epilepsy."

Drug discovery for epilepsy is currently challenging, due to the complexity of the neuronal signaling circuits involved in the disease. This complexity makes typical genomic-driven molecular target-based drug discovery difficult and has therefore inhibited a better understanding of potential therapeutic intervention points. However, the same types of neurons, signaling molecules, transporters and receptors that are involved in human epilepsy are also found in simpler laboratory animals, such as the fruit fly *Drosophila*, making the circuit-based analysis of the disease possible. The Company established a basic model of *Drosophila* epilepsy by showing that neurotoxins that cause seizures in humans and other mammals also cause seizures in fruit flies, and that certain approved human anti-epileptic drugs will pharmacologically suppress seizures in fruit flies as well. These findings were recently published by Dr. Geoff Stilwell and other Cambria scientists in the *European Journal of Neuroscience*.

Capitalizing on this finding, Cambria scientists have developed a high-throughput, *in vivo* epilepsy disease model assay in *Drosophila* to screen for compounds that block the neuronal hyperactivity and convulsions that are typical of the disease. The process involves administering neurotoxins that induce epilepsy symptoms in the fruit flies, then testing chemical compounds, both new and those approved for other indications, in the flies' intact nervous system to discover compounds effective in reducing or eliminating seizure activity. The greater diversity of active compounds discovered by this process may yield new therapeutic intervention points for epilepsy, in order to address the many specific sub-populations of patients with this illness that do not respond to currently available anti-epileptic drugs.

About Epilepsy

More than 2.4 million Americans have epilepsy, a chronic neurological condition characterized by recurrent, unprovoked seizures caused by temporary abnormal electrical activity in nerve cells in the brain. About one third of all people living with epilepsy are not adequately treated with currently available medications. There are many forms and underlying causes of epilepsy, which imposes an annual economic burden of approximately \$25 billion in the U.S., due to health care costs and lost productivity.

About Cambria Biosciences

Cambria Biosciences is an innovative biotechnology company building a product pipeline for neurodegenerative conditions such as Lou Gehrig's disease and epilepsy. Cambria also employs its chemical genetics platform to aid animal health and agricultural companies advance their pipelines, differentiate their products and reduce the risks of field resistance through a precise understanding of their candidate products' mode of action. Further information is available at www.cambriabio.com.

This release contains certain forward-looking statements which involve known and unknown risks, delays, uncertainties and other factors not under the respective company's control which may cause actual results, performance or achievements of that company to be materially different from the results, performance or other expectations implied by these forward-looking statements. These factors include results of current or pending research and development activities, actions by regulatory authorities, and other activities.

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