



## **Hummingbird Bioscience Announces Nobel Laureate Dr. James Allison and Dr. Padmanee Sharma Join its Scientific Advisory Board**

**Singapore, February 18, 2019** – Hummingbird Bioscience, a systems-biology enabled biotech company focused on the discovery and development of novel cancer therapeutics, today announced James P. Allison, Ph.D. and Padmanee Sharma, M.D., Ph.D., have joined its Scientific Advisory Board.

One of the world's most renowned scientists, Dr. Allison has spent his career studying the regulation of T cell responses. In 2018, he shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation. Dr. Allison's work led to the development of an antibody to human CTLA-4 called ipilimumab which became the first immune checkpoint blockade therapy ever approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The approval of ipilimumab cleared the path for the emerging field of immune checkpoint blockade therapy in the treatment of cancer. His current work is focused on improving immune checkpoint blockade therapies and identifying new targets to unleash the immune system and eradicate cancer. Dr. Allison is a member of the National Academies of Science and Medicine and is currently Chair of the Department of Immunology, the Vivian L. Smith Distinguished Chair in Immunology, the Executive Director of the Immunotherapy Platform and Co-Director of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

A scientific leader in oncology, specializing in renal, bladder and prostate cancer, Dr. Sharma is focused on understanding resistance mechanisms within the immune system that impact anti-tumor responses. For more than a decade, she has been a principal investigator for multiple clinical trials to improve the efficacy of cancer immunotherapies. Dr. Sharma's work on new pathways to treat prostate cancer implicated for the first time in a human tumor the checkpoint VISTA in inhibiting immune responses. In partnership with Dr. Allison, Dr. Sharma is currently exploring combinations of immunological therapies and targeted drugs in preclinical studies to treat a variety of cancers more effectively. Dr. Sharma is a professor of Genitourinary Medical Oncology and Immunology in the Division of Cancer Medicine, the T.C. and Jeanette Hsu Endowed Chair in Cell Biology, the Scientific Director of the Immunotherapy Platform and the Co-Director of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

"I am pleased to join the Scientific Advisory Board of Hummingbird Bioscience at this exciting moment in the development of its pipeline," said Dr. Allison. "We have a unique opportunity to explore the potential of its anti-VISTA antibody, which was identified

through Hummingbird's rational antibody discovery approach to developing new oncology drug candidates."

Hummingbird Bioscience harnesses the power of systems biology to generate highly differentiated therapeutic antibodies for use in precision medicine. Among its anticipated first-in-class immuno-oncology drug candidates, Hummingbird has developed a novel anti-VISTA antibody, HMBD-002-V4, to target and inhibit a predicted functional domain on the immune checkpoint protein VISTA and unleash the body's immune response against cancer.

"It is wonderful opportunity to be a part of the Hummingbird Bioscience Scientific Advisory Board," said Dr. Sharma. "Among various VISTA molecules in development globally, Hummingbird's HMBD-002-V4 is particularly interesting because it binds a uniquely differentiated and species conserved epitope to neutralize VISTA activity and in doing so has the potential to potently inhibit tumor growth by remodelling an immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment."

HMBD-002-V4 is wholly owned and developed by Hummingbird Bioscience.

"We are delighted and honoured to have Drs. Allison and Sharma join our board of scientific advisors," said Piers Ingram, Ph.D., CEO of Hummingbird Bioscience. "Their deep experience and tremendous track record in oncology and immunotherapy will undoubtedly strengthen and enhance our scientific development of new antibody therapies."

### **About Hummingbird Bioscience**

Hummingbird Bioscience is an innovative therapeutics development company with a proprietary rational antibody discovery platform and deep experience in applying integrative genomics and proteomics. Hummingbird develops precision therapeutic antibodies to clinical proof-of-concept for patients with the highest unmet need. The company has a pipeline of first or best-in-class drug candidates. Within its pipeline, HMBD-001 (anti-HER3 antibody) and HMBD-002 (anti-VISTA antibody) are anticipated to start clinical trials in 2020. The company has locations in South San Francisco, CA and Singapore. For more information on Hummingbird Bioscience visit: <http://www.hummingbirdbioscience.com>

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