



**Areacor Therapeutics plc**  
("Areacor" or the "Company")

**ARECOR AND TRx BIOSCIENCES ESTABLISH RESEARCH COLLABORATION TO DEVELOP ORAL GLP-1 WITH ENHANCED BIOAVAILABILITY**

- ***Companies to combine proprietary technologies to formulate an oral semaglutide (GLP-1 receptor agonist) product with enhanced bioavailability***
- ***Collaboration focused on overcoming the challenges of oral peptide delivery using a novel lipid technology to provide a more convenient treatment option for patients with diabetes and obesity***
- ***Potential to expand collaboration across multiple oral peptide products and combination therapies in growing global market***

**Cambridge, UK, 12 March 2024:** Areacor Therapeutics plc (AIM: AREC), the biopharmaceutical group advancing today's therapies to enable healthier lives, and TRx Biosciences Limited, a drug development company applying novel lipid technology to the oral delivery of challenging molecules, today announced a research collaboration for the formulation development of an oral glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist product.

GLP-1 receptor agonists are a class of therapeutic peptides used to treat type 2 diabetes and obesity, in a global market predicted to reach \$80-\$100+ billion by 2030<sup>1</sup>. Oral delivery of this class of drug is extremely challenging owing to the proteolytic nature of the digestive system which significantly reduces bioavailability. Injection remains the most common delivery form for therapeutic peptide drugs, limiting adoption, compliance and usage among patients, who would prefer a simpler, more practical oral therapy.

The only GLP-1 receptor agonist currently available to patients in pill form – Novo Nordisk's semaglutide (Rybelsus®) – has oral bioavailability of less than 1%<sup>2</sup>. Using TRx Biosciences' LipiCore™ oral delivery technology alongside Areacor's formulation platform, Arestat™, the companies intend to jointly develop an oral GLP-1 receptor agonist product with enhanced physicochemical properties that can achieve higher oral bioavailability and stability.

**Sarah Howell, Chief Executive Officer of Areacor, said:** *"As the global market for GLP-1 receptor agonists grows and their use increases, significant challenges remain in their oral delivery. With current treatment options mostly limited to injectable therapies, many patients in need are unable to benefit from these highly*

*effective treatments. Areacor has an excellent track record developing difficult-to-achieve product profiles by deploying our Arestat™ technology to develop unique formulations specifically designed to overcome patient-focussed challenges. Alongside TRx Biosciences and its expertise in targeted oral drug delivery, we have an opportunity to develop an enhanced oral GLP-1 receptor agonist product. In addition, if the initial research collaboration is successful, we would hope to leverage the technology to deliver other high value peptides via patient- preferred oral delivery formats. I look forward to providing further updates in due course.”*

**Dr Robin Bannister, Chief Executive Officer of TRx Biosciences, said:** *“The effective oral delivery of peptides remains a ‘holy grail’, meaning patients that require the convenience of oral treatment can’t access the benefits of new peptide therapies. By combining TRx’s LipiCore™ technology with Areacor’s proven peptide expertise and Arestat™ platform, we create the opportunity to access novel oral uptake channels and protect peptides from damage in the gastrointestinal tract to solve this fundamental challenge. Semaglutide, given its immense potential in the treatment of diabetes and obesity, is a highly attractive starting point. Success with semaglutide may offer a path to multiple oral peptide products with enhanced absorption and efficacy.”*

The collaboration provides scope for expansion, following the initial oral GLP-1 receptor agonist programme, to develop further oral peptide products. These include additional peptides and combination approaches which may be key in the treatment of obesity-related health conditions, as well as peptide products targeting multiple therapeutic areas.

**-ENDS-**

## References

1. Anti-Obesity Drug Sales Could Hit \$80 Billion by 2030 [Bloomberg Intelligence](#)  
The increase in appetite for obesity drugs [J.P. Morgan Global Research](#)  
Novo Nordisk faces several 'overlooked' trends including competition for Wegovy, warns investment bank [Proactive](#)
2. Clinical Pharmacokinetics of Oral Semaglutide: Analyses of Data from Clinical Pharmacology Trials. Clin Pharmacokinet. 2021 Oct;60(10):1335-1348. doi: 10.1007/s40262-021-01025-x. Epub 2021 May 10

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**Notes to Editors**

**About Areacor**

Areacor Therapeutics plc is a globally focused biopharmaceutical company transforming patient care by bringing innovative medicines to market through the enhancement of existing therapeutic products. By applying our innovative proprietary technology platform, Arestat™, we are developing an internal portfolio of proprietary products in diabetes and other indications, as well as working with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to deliver therapeutic products. The Arestat™ platform is supported by an extensive patent portfolio.

For further details please see our website, [www.arecor.com](http://www.arecor.com)