Fractyl Health Expands Landmark Academic-Industry Collaboration to Study Mechanisms Underlying GLP-1-Based Pancreatic Gene Therapy for Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity

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- *Fractyl Health-supported research is now underway with noted professor Randy Seeley, Ph.D., at Michigan Medicine, the academic medical center of the University of Michigan, to explore mechanisms of metabolic improvement and weight loss from an intrapancreatic gene therapy leveraging GLP-1-based transgenes for long-duration treatment of type 2 diabetes (T2D) and obesity*
- *New research builds upon fundamental discovery work already underway via Fractyl Health's ERASE Task Force-funded research collaborations*

LEXINGTON, Mass., Nov. 16, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Fractyl Health, a metabolic therapeutics company focused on pioneering new approaches to the treatment of type 2 diabetes (T2D) and obesity, today announced the expansion of an academic-industry scientific partnership charged with advancing research on the role of the gut and pancreas in metabolic disease. The new research, to be led by Professor Randy Seeley, Ph.D., of Michigan Medicine, is intended to explore the mechanistic rationale underlying the use of local pancreatic gene therapy to produce targeted treatment options that address, and hopefully remit, metabolic diseases.

"T2D and obesity are two of society's most vexing chronic diseases. We now have much better tools in the toolbox, but all rely on chronic therapy to achieve their benefits. Therapies, where the intervention can be more limited but still achieve durable disease modification, are sorely needed," said Seeley, Ph.D., Henry King Ransom Professor of Surgery and Director of Michigan Nutrition Obesity Research Center at Michigan School of Medicine. "My lab and I are excited to explore how pancreatic gene therapy may redefine how to think about treating T2D and obesity while reducing the burden on patients."

The mission of the ERASE Task Force is to catalyze discoveries that may inform how T2D and obesity can be better understood and hopefully 'erased.' The ambition is that this collaboration will lead to a deeper understanding of the possible ways to target the gut and pancreas to durably change the trajectory of these diseases.

"We stand at the cusp of a transformative leap in our battle against T2D and obesity, diseases that have long challenged our global society and yet still lack durable solutions," said Harith Rajagopalan, M.D., Ph.D., Co-Founder and CEO of Fractyl Health. "We are excited to deepen our scientific collaboration with Dr. Seeley to explore the metabolic mechanisms underpinning a one-time gene therapy in the pancreas."

About the ERASE Task Force
The ERASE Task Force is an academic-industry scientific partnership built on decades of scientific investigation which has identified the critical role of the gut and pancreas as regulators of metabolic disease. The signaling mechanisms between the gut, pancreas, and the rest of the body are numerous and not yet fully delineated. The ERASE Task Force is charged with advancing research to catalyze future discoveries that may inform how T2D and obesity can be better understood and ultimately erased. Partnership members include: Alan Cherrington, Ph.D. (co-chair), Professor of Molecular Physiology and biophysics, Professor of Medicine, and the Jacquelyn A. Turner and Dr. Dorothy J. Turner Chair in Diabetes Research at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Harith Rajagopalan, M.D., Ph.D. (co-chair), Co-founder and CEO of Fractyl Health; Dave D'Alessio, M.D., Professor of medicine and Chief of Division of the Endocrinology and Metabolism at Duke University School of Medicine; Geltrude Mingrone, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Diabetes and Nutrition at King's College, London, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the Catholic University of Rome; Randy Seeley, Ph.D., Henry King Ransom Professor of Surgery and Director of the Michigan Nutrition Obesity Research Center at Michigan Medicine.

About Fractyl Health
Fractyl Health is a metabolic therapeutics company focused on pioneering new approaches to the treatment of metabolic diseases, including T2D and obesity. Despite advances in treatment over the last 50 years, T2D and obesity continue to be rapidly growing drivers of morbidity and mortality in the 21st century. Fractyl Health's goal is to transform metabolic disease treatment from chronic symptomatic management to durable disease-modifying therapies that target the organ-level root causes of disease. Fractyl Health is based in Lexington, MA. For more information, visit www.fractyl.com or www.twitter.com/FractylHealth.

About Rejuva®
Fractyl Health's Rejuva® platform focuses on developing next-generation adeno-associated virus (AAV)-based, locally delivered gene therapies for the treatment of T2D and obesity. The Rejuva platform is in preclinical development and has not yet been

evaluated by regulatory agencies for investigational or commercial use. Rejuva leverages advanced delivery systems and proprietary screening methods to identify and develop metabolically active gene therapy candidates targeting the pancreas. The program aims to transform the management of metabolic diseases by offering novel, disease-modifying therapies that address the underlying root causes of disease.

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