

## **Lorus Therapeutics Announces Allowance of a Patent on its Small Molecule Program**

***- Australian Patent Provides Broad Protection of its Small Molecule Drug Candidates -***

**TORONTO, CANADA, March 10, 2010** – Lorus Therapeutics Inc. (TSX: LOR) (“Lorus”), a biopharmaceutical company specializing in the discovery, research and development of pharmaceutical products and technologies for the management of cancer, today announced the allowance of an Australian patent for novel compounds from its small molecule program.

The Australian patent provides broad protection for composition of a number of Lorus’ small molecule drug candidates including LOR-220 and related compounds as well as Lorus’ lead oncology small molecule LOR-253.

This is the first patent allowance from Lorus’ small molecule platform. Lorus currently has similar patents pending in several countries worldwide, as well as pending patents for anticancer uses of LOR-253.

Lorus is currently exploring the potential for developing LOR-220 as a novel antibacterial compound. LOR-253, a first-in-class anticancer compound, has completed preclinical development. An Investigational New Drug (IND) application for LOR-253 is being finalized for filing with the U.S. FDA for a Phase I dose escalation trial in selected solid tumors.

“We’re very pleased to receive this patent, which protects a range of drug candidates from our robust small molecule program”, said Dr. Aiping Young, Lorus’ President and CEO. “The Australian patent strengthens our IP position and gives us the chance to enter several important markets with these novel compounds”.

### **About LOR-220**

LOR-220 is a novel small molecule that is active against multi-drug resistant Gram-positive bacteria such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), and other bacterial and fungal infections produced by important emerging pathogens. In preclinical studies, LOR-220 has demonstrated strong antimicrobial activity in animal models of sepsis.

### **About LOR-253**

LOR-253 is a small molecule compound that has shown selective and potent antitumor activity in a variety of human cancers, including colon cancer and non-small cell lung cancer, and has an excellent therapeutic window due to its low toxicity. LOR-253 is a first-in-class inhibitor of the novel cancer target Metal-Responsive Transcription Factor 1 (MTF-1). The mode of action of LOR-253 involves the downregulation of cyclin D1, an important regulator of cell cycle progression and cell proliferation, and decreased expression of genes involved in tumor hypoxia (low oxygen content) and angiogenesis. Increased angiogenesis and alterations in the cyclin D1 regulatory pathway have been linked to the development of cancer.

## **About Lorus**

Lorus is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the research and development of novel therapeutics in cancer. Lorus' goal is to capitalize on its research, preclinical, clinical and regulatory expertise by developing new drug candidates that can be used, either alone, or in combination with other drugs, to successfully manage cancer. Through its own discovery efforts and an acquisition and in-licensing program, Lorus is building a portfolio of promising anticancer drugs. Lorus Therapeutics Inc. is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol LOR.

## **Forward Looking Statements**

This press release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Canadian and U.S. securities laws. Such statements include, but are not limited to, statements relating to: our research program plans, our plans to conduct clinical trials, the successful and timely completion of clinical studies and the regulatory approval process, our ability to fund future research, our plans to obtain partners to assist in the further development of our product candidates, the establishment of corporate alliances, the Company's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements including words such as "continue", "believe", "plan", "expect", "intend", "will", "should", "may", and other similar expressions. Such statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are subject to risks and uncertainties and are necessarily based upon a number of estimates and assumptions that, while considered reasonable by us are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties and contingencies. Many factors could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements that may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including, among others: our ability to continue as a going concern, our ability to obtain the capital required for research and operations, the inherent risks in early stage drug development including demonstrating efficacy, development time/cost and the regulatory approval process; the progress of our clinical trials; our ability to find and enter into agreements with potential partners; our ability to attract and retain key personnel; changing market conditions; and other risks detailed from time-to-time in our ongoing quarterly filings, annual information forms, annual reports and annual filings with Canadian securities regulators and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should the assumptions set out in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our Annual Information Form underlying those forward-looking statements prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described herein. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this press release and we do not intend, and do not assume any obligation, to update these forward-looking statements, except as required by law. We cannot assure you that such statements will prove to be accurate as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Investors are cautioned that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and accordingly investors are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements due to the inherent uncertainty therein.

Lorus Therapeutics Inc.'s recent press releases are available through the Company's website at [www.lorusthera.com](http://www.lorusthera.com). For Lorus' regulatory filings on SEDAR, please go to [www.Sedar.com](http://www.Sedar.com). For SEDAR filings prior to July 10, 2007 you will find these under the company profile for Global Summit Real Estate Inc. (Old Lorus).

Enquiries:

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Saeid Babaei, 416-798-1200 ext. 490; [ir@lorusthera.com](mailto:ir@lorusthera.com)