

## viDA Therapeutics Inc. Awarded Grant from Strategic Opportunities Fund for Industry by Genome BC

**Vancouver, British Columbia (July 1, 2012)** viDA Therapeutics Inc. (viDA), a private biotechnology company, is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a Strategic Opportunities Fund for Industry (SOFI) grant from Genome British Columbia (Genome BC) to conduct a new research project entitled, "Research and Development of a Novel Treatment for Hypertrophic Scarring and Keloids". The project is focused on the development of novel first in class inhibitors targeting Granzyme B for the treatment of hypertrophic scarring and keloids.

The Company's focus is specifically on extracellular Granzyme B (GzmB) and its role in a range of disease states involving inflammation and tissue damage. Extracellular GzmB actively participates in degradation of key components of the body's extracellular matrix, which acts as a scaffold for cell binding and provides essential structural integrity for proper function of tissues and organs. viDA's aim is to show the clinical potential of inhibiting extracellular GzmB in the area of dermatology first, before attempting clinical development in other indications.

"We could not be more pleased that Genome BC recognizes the importance and potential of viDA's technology platform," said Alistair Duncan, President and CEO of viDA Therapeutics Inc. "This funding will allow us to investigate the potential to develop our lead compound toward clinical studies in the prevention or treatment of hypertrophic scarring and keloids."

Genome BC's Strategic Opportunities Fund for Industry program provides support to catalyze or fund new projects and initiatives of strategic importance to BC's life sciences sectors in an industrial environment.

### **About viDA Therapeutics**

viDA Therapeutics, Inc. is a platform-based, biotechnology company that is developing first in class therapeutics, across a broad range of diseases, that capitalize on its recent discovery of a new mechanism of action for a well characterized protease target, Granzyme B (GzmB). This is emerging science potentially leading to new treatments for fibrotic, autoimmune, degenerative and age-related chronic inflammatory diseases and is pivotal in understanding the underlying causes of diseases affecting vasculature, skin, musculoskeletal and potentially neurological systems. GzmB is one of a family of five serine proteases now emerging as key targets for drug development given recent discoveries of their extracellular actions. viDA is developing a suite of granzyme inhibitors designed for multiple routes of administration to treat chronic and orphan skin conditions, fibrosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and cardiovascular disease. For more information, please visit [www.vidatherapeutics.com](http://www.vidatherapeutics.com).

### **About Genome British Columbia**

Genome British Columbia is a catalyst for the life science's cluster on Canada's West Coast, and manages a cumulative portfolio of over \$550 million in research projects and science and technology platforms. Working with governments, academia and industry across sectors such as forestry, fisheries, agriculture, environment, bioenergy, mining and human health, the goal of the organization is to generate social and economic benefits for British Columbia and Canada. [www.genomebc.ca](http://www.genomebc.ca)

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