



MENTARA BIO

## **Mentara Bio Inc. Launches to Develop Advanced Treatments for Epilepsy and Dravet Syndrome**

- Company details development strategy for MN-045, targeting epilepsy and Dravet syndrome with plans for IND submission -
- MN-045 shows remarkable efficacy in preclinical models of epilepsy and Dravet syndrome compared to existing therapies -
- \$2M in SBIR funding secured to support crucial IND-enabling studies for MN-045 -

**Durham, NC, February 15, 2022** – Mentara Bio Inc. (“Mentara Bio” or “the Company”), a pioneering biopharmaceutical firm, is proud to announce its official launch with a dedicated mission to develop innovative treatments for epilepsy and related neurological disorders, including Dravet syndrome. The Company’s leading candidate, MN-045, has demonstrated exceptional promise in preclinical studies and is on the path to an Investigational New Drug (IND) application, supported by \$2M in Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) awards.

MN-045 is a next-generation nitroaminoadamantane N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist. This cutting-edge compound has shown superior results in preclinical models for epilepsy and Dravet syndrome, significantly outperforming the current standard treatments. MN-045 functions by selectively targeting overactive extrasynaptic NMDA receptors, thereby restoring synaptic balance and addressing the excitatory/inhibitory (E/I) neuronal imbalance that characterizes these conditions.

“We are thrilled to introduce Mentara Bio and our novel therapeutic approach to treating debilitating neurological disorders,” said Sahil Velivelli, President and CEO of Mentara Bio. “The compelling preclinical data for MN-045 highlights its potential to significantly improve the lives of patients with epilepsy and Dravet syndrome. We are focused on advancing MN-045 through the necessary regulatory pathways to bring this promising treatment to clinical trials.”

### **MN-045 Development Plan and Upcoming Milestones**

- Complete GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) production of MN-045;
- Conduct GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) safety and toxicology studies;
- Finalize clinical development strategy and protocols;
- Submit IND application for MN-045; and
- Initiate Phase 1 clinical trials.

“The preclinical results we’ve obtained with MN-045 are highly encouraging,” commented Dr. Timothy Roberts, Chief Scientific Officer of Mentara Bio. “Our comprehensive development plan is designed to expedite MN-045’s progress through IND-enabling studies and into clinical trials, bringing us closer to offering new hope for patients suffering from epilepsy and Dravet syndrome.”

**About Mentara Bio Inc.** Mentara Bio Inc. is a privately held biopharmaceutical company focused on developing transformative therapies for neurological disorders. The Company’s lead program, MN-045, is a novel nitro-aminoadamantane N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA)



receptor antagonist in preclinical development for the treatment of epilepsy and Dravet syndrome. Preclinical studies have shown MN-045 to be significantly more effective than current standard treatments without compromising safety. The Company aims to file its IND and commence Phase 1 trials for MN-045 within the year.

**Forward-Looking Statements** This press release contains forward-looking statements regarding the Company's product development, market opportunity, competitive position, and other statements predictive in nature. These statements are based on current information and assumptions but are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual outcomes to differ materially. The Company disclaims any obligation to update these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise, except as required by law.

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