Fast Track Designation Granted for Macular Telangiectasia Type 2 (MacTel)

December 17, 2018, Cumberland, RI – Neurotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a clinical stage biotech company, announced today that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Fast Track Designation for the investigation of Allogeneic Retinal Pigment Epithelial Cells Transfected with Plasmid Vector (pNuT-IgSP-hCNTF) Expressing CNTF; Encapsulated in a Hollow Fiber Membrane for the treatment of Macular Telangiectasia Type 2 (MacTel) to improve impaired central vision due to progressive photoreceptor loss.

Fast track designation is designed to aid in the development and expedite the review of drugs which show promise in treating a serious or life-threatening disease and address an unmet medical need. Once a drug receives fast track designation, early and frequent communication between the FDA and a drug company is encouraged throughout the entire drug development and review process. The frequency of communication assures that questions and issues are resolved quickly, often leading to earlier drug approval and access by patients.

This designation exemplifies Neurotech's continued commitment to bringing treatment to patients with MacTel Type2.

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About Macular Telangiectasia Type 2 (MacTel)
Macular telangiectasia type 2 (MacTel), or idiopathic juxtafoveal macular telangiectasia type 2, is a rare neurodegenerative disease with characteristic alterations of the retinal vasculature and localized retinal degeneration.[1] MacTel typically affects both eyes and causes a gradual deterioration in central vision.

About NT-501 Implant

Designed to be implanted into the vitreous cavity of the eye, the investigational NT-501 implant is a tiny hollow cylindrical membrane which encapsulates human epithelial cells genetically engineered to produce ciliary neurotropic factor (CNTF) continuously, a protein now clinically validated in Phase 3 clinical trials to slow the progression of MacTel.

About Encapsulated Cell Therapy

Encapsulated Cell Therapy (ECT) is an investigational first-in-class, platform technology that promotes continuous production of therapeutic proteins to the eye with the potential to treat a broad array of ocular diseases. It utilizes a proprietary, well-characterized retinal pigment epithelial cell line that has been genetically engineered to produce therapeutically active biologics. The cells are encapsulated in a semi-permeable membrane that allows for selective passage of therapeutic proteins. The ECT platform is inserted during a single outpatient surgical procedure through a small scleral incision, and can also be

removed through the same incision, if desired. ECT has the potential to address the current limitations of intraocular drug delivery by allowing for and ensuring patient compliance and reducing treatment burden with one surgical procedure that can deliver drug for at least 2 years.

About Neurotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Neurotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a private clinical stage biotech company focused on developing transformative therapies for chronic eye diseases. The core platform technology, Encapsulated Cell Therapy (ECT), enables continuous production of therapeutic proteins to the eye. Neurotech is currently studying in the clinic ECT candidates to treat Macular telangiectasia type 2 and glaucoma. To learn more, visit https://www.neurotechpharmaceuticals.com/.

1. Charbel Issa P, Gillies MC, Chew EY, Heeren TFC, Bird AC, Peto T, Holz FG, Scholl HPN (2013) Macular Telangiectasia Type 2. Prog. Retin. Eye Res. 34: 49-77.

Corporate Contact:
Laurie Ferguson, Chief Communications Officer
Tel: 401-556-8469
Email: l.ferguson@neurotechusa.com