AC Immune Shares Insights from Key Opinion Leader Meeting on Abeta Oligomers in Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) and Other Misfolded Proteins in AD and Neurodegenerative Diseases

- Increasing evidence points to Abeta oligomers as the toxic species in AD, and likely linked to Tau pathology and neuroinflammation.
- Immunotherapies and small molecule anti-Tau therapeutics hold much promise in treating AD and neurodegenerative orphan indications.
- Additional misfolded proteins, alpha-synuclein and TDP-43 exist alongside Beta-amyloid and Tau as concomitant pathologies, suggesting precision medicine approaches are required for treating AD and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Lausanne, Switzerland, November 9, 2018 – AC Immune SA (NASDAQ: ACIU), a Swiss-based, clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company with a broad pipeline focused on neurodegenerative diseases, shared top level insights from its Key Opinion Leader (KOL) luncheon meeting on Abeta oligomers and concomitant proteinopathies in AD and other neurodegenerative diseases, which took place on November 5, 2018, in New York City.

The meeting featured presentations by Professor Michael W. Weiner, University of California San Francisco School of Medicine and Professor John Q. Trojanowski, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

Professor Weiner reviewed current understanding of the amyloid hypothesis of AD, emphasizing the key role Abeta oligomers as the most toxic species in the amyloid cascade, and which produce various downstream effects possibly involved in tau pathology and neuroinflammation. In regard to tau, Professor Weiner highlighted the excitement around antibody, vaccine and small molecule anti-tau therapeutics currently in clinical trials and development. Finally Professor Weiner explained the importance of diagnostics for early intervention in AD, and reviewed progress in brain PET imaging as well as molecular biomarkers in brain fluid and blood.

Professor Weiner remarked: “Alzheimer’s Disease can be thought of as an amyloid induced tauopathy, and therefore therapeutics targeting amyloid and tau hold much promise in finding a cure for this devastating disease. Imaging and biomarker diagnostics, particularly blood tests, will facilitate early treatment and improved clinical outcomes.”

Professor Trojanowski highlighted the existence of concomitant pathologies in a wide range of neurodegenerative diseases, emphasizing the importance of alpha-synuclein and
TDP-43, in addition to Beta-amyloid and tau. These discoveries point to the future importance of precision medicine, involving therapeutics targeting the pathological proteins relevant to an individual patients and stage of disease.

Professor Trojanowski commented: “It is becoming clearer that clinical trial participants may be better defined by their various proteinopathies and that patient sub-classification may lead to improved clinical outcomes. The high prevalence of co-pathologies in neurodegenerative diseases, as well variation between individuals, indicates that diagnostics and combination therapy may be the ultimate requirement.”

Following the KOL presentations, Prof. Andrea Pfeifer, CEO of AC Immune, gave an overview of the Company’s pipeline and strategy to be a leader in precision medicine in neurodegenerative diseases. The Company has nine products in various stages of clinical development and a sustainable pipeline of pre-clinical assets addressing key targets in AD and neurodegenerative diseases.

Professor Andrea Pfeifer commented: “We’re starting to see a clearer and more important need for precision medicine with the prevalence of co-pathology in AD, Parkinson’s and other neurodegenerative diseases. Our current therapeutic and diagnostic pipeline forms the basis of our forward strategy to become a leader in precision medicine as applied to AD and other neurodegenerative diseases.”

A replay of the event is available on the Investor page of AC Immune's [website](#).

**KOL Biographies**

**Michael W. Weiner M.D.**

*Professor, Department of Radiology*
*University of California San Francisco School of Medicine*

Dr. Weiner is Professor in Residence in Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, Medicine, Psychiatry, and Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco. He is Principle Investigator of the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative, which is the largest observational study in the world concerning Alzheimer's Disease. He is the former Director of the Center for Imaging of Neurodegenerative Diseases (CIND) at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center. During the past 25 years he has worked to develop and optimized the use of MRI, PET, and blood based biomarker methods to diagnose Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative disorders. Dr. Weiner’s research also focuses on monitoring effects of treatment to slow progressions in Alzheimer’s disease, and detecting Alzheimer’s disease early in patients who are not demented, but risk subsequent development of dementia.
John Q. Trojanowski M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Director Center for Neurodegenerative Research
Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Trojanowski obtained his MD/PhD in 1976 from Tufts University, did his internal medicine internship at Mt. Auburn Hospital, his pathology and neuropathology at Massachusetts General Hospital and the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine where he joined the faculty in 1981. He is Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Director of the NIA Alzheimer’s Disease Center, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders (NINDS) Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Disease Center, and the Institute on Aging. His research focuses on Alzheimer’s (AD) and Parkinson’s (PD) disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) which led to the discovery of the major disease proteins in these disorders.

About AC Immune
AC Immune is a clinical-stage Swiss-based biopharmaceutical company, listed on NASDAQ, which aims to become a global leader in precision medicine for neurodegenerative diseases. The Company designs, discovers and develops therapeutic as well as diagnostic products intended to prevent and modify diseases caused by misfolding proteins. AC Immune’s two proprietary technology platforms create antibodies, small molecules and vaccines designed to address a broad spectrum of neurodegenerative indications, such as Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The Company’s pipeline features nine therapeutic and three diagnostic product candidates – with five product candidates currently in clinical trials. The most advanced of these is crenezumab, a humanized anti-amyloid-β monoclonal IgG4 antibody that targets monomeric and aggregated forms of amyloid-β, with highest affinity for neurotoxic oligomers. Crenezumab is currently in two Phase 3 clinical studies for AD, under a global program conducted by the collaboration partner Roche/Genentech. Other collaborations include Biogen, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Nestlé Institute of Health Sciences, Life Molecular Imaging (formerly Piramal Imaging) and Essex Bio-Technology.

Forward looking statements
This press release contains statements that constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements are statements other than historical fact and may include statements that address future operating, financial or business performance or AC Immune’s strategies or expectations. In some cases, you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as “may,” “might,” “will,” “should,” “expects,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “projects,” “potential,” “outlook” or “continue,” and other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are based on management’s current expectations and beliefs and involve significant risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, developments and business decisions to differ materially from those contemplated by these statements. These risks and uncertainties include those described under the captions “Item 3. Key Information—Risk Factors” and “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects” in AC Immune’s Annual Report on Form 20-F and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and AC Immune does not undertake any obligation to update them in light of new information, future developments or otherwise, except as may be required under applicable law. All forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.
For further information, please contact:

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<tr>
<td>Beatrix Benz</td>
<td>Lisa Sher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC Immune Corporate Communications</td>
<td>AC Immune Investor Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: +41 21 345 91 34</td>
<td>Phone: +1 970 987 26 54</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:lisa.sher@acimmune.com">lisa.sher@acimmune.com</a></td>
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<td>Ted Agne</td>
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<td>Cabinet Privé de Conseils s.a.</td>
<td>The Communications Strategy Group Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: +41 22 552 46 46</td>
<td>Phone: +1 781 631 3117</td>
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