

BioHarvest Sciences Announces Clinical Study in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis-Related Optic Neuritis

- **Study will assess the Capacity of its Red Grape Cell (RGC) Botanical Composition to Promote Eye Health**
- **Study is first to demonstrate potential capabilities of BioHarvest's Botanical-Synthesis technology to provide consistent APIs, adjuvants and drugs for pharmaceutical industry**

Vancouver, British Columbia, and Rehovot, Israel--(Newsfile Corp. - February 14, 2023) - BioHarvest Sciences Inc. (CSE: BHSC) (OTCQB: CNVCF) ("BioHarvest" or the "Company") has announced a collaboration with the International Neurorehabilitation Institute (INI) (<https://inirehab.com/>) in Lutherville, Maryland to perform a clinical trial to assess the capacity of its RGC composition to promote eye health.

The study will be led by Dr. Daniel Becker, Director of the INI and Assistant Professor of Neurology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. RGC is a patented composition based on BioHarvest's Botanical-Synthesis technology, with consistency and quality that have potential to meet the criteria for being used as an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API).

The planned translational open-label clinical study will evaluate the impact of RGC on multiple sclerosis (MS)-related optic neuritis driven by inflammation. The study – the latest of several human clinical trials run by BioHarvest – aims to elucidate the mechanisms through which RGC impacts the disease by measuring anti-oxidative, detoxifying, and inflammatory biomarkers.

"To date there are no medications that can help improve vision after an acute optic neuritis event. This exciting research will help us understand if phytonutrients are capable of affecting the inflammatory environment as well as the neuro-regenerative capacity within the injured central nervous system," said Dr Daniel Becker, who is the study's lead investigator.

The research team hypothesizes that RGC will result in positive changes to eye health by modulating a variety of biomarkers compared to baseline in the study participants.

The next important step for this study is submission to an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to be followed by the study launch with 15-30 participants.

"This is the first human clinical study to evaluate the combination of health-promoting phytonutrients as found in RGC for the promotion of eye health," said BioHarvest Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Cornblatt, co-investigator of the study.

"Many patients with MS suffer with optic neuritis and to date the standard of care includes in-patient high-dose steroids," Dr. Cornblatt added. *"Considering many people with MS take biologics which have immunosuppressing properties, adding high-dose steroids is not ideal in the current environment, with a pandemic and influenza on the rise globally. We need to go back to medicine's roots, literally, and study safe, effective, and affordable phytonutrients derived from plants."*

"What's exciting is that we know that phytonutrients in RGC help modulate key molecular pathways at the cellular level, including up-regulating anti-oxidative enzymes. We view this study as a first step to validate this concept. It will be followed by a longer-term plan to assess the effectiveness of RGC in restoring different aspects of eye health. A larger, multi-center, controlled clinical trial aiming at bridging eye health support with changes in validated biomarkers will help confirm the protective role of phytonutrients," said Dr. George Garibaldi, member of the Scientific Advisory Board of BioHarvest.

The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation estimates more than 1 million people in the United States and about 2.5 million people worldwide have been diagnosed with MS, and some 200 new cases are diagnosed weekly in the US alone. While the root causes of MS are still unknown, there are definite links between genetic and select environmental factors.

"We are inspired by nature and driven by science. Clinical studies are an important pillar in building a company that creates products that are both trusted and effective for our customers," said BioHarvest CEO Ilan Sobel. "As a biotech company dedicated to health and wellness, we plan to extend our Botanical-Synthesis technology into the pharmaceutical industry. This collaboration with such a reputable North American research partner marks an important step to create additional science-based therapeutic solutions that provide better treatment options."

About BioHarvest Sciences Inc.

BioHarvest Sciences Inc. (CSE: BHSC) is a fast-growing Biotech firm listed on the Canadian Securities Exchange. BioHarvest has developed a patented bio-cell growth platform technology capable of growing the active and beneficial ingredients in fruit and plants, at industrial scale, without the need to grow the plant itself. This technology is economical, ensures consistency, and avoids the negative environmental impacts associated with traditional agriculture. BioHarvest is currently focused on nutraceuticals and the medicinal cannabis markets. Visit: www.bioharvest.com.

BioHarvest Sciences Inc.

Ilan Sobel, Chief Executive Officer

For further information, please contact:

Dave Ryan, VP Investor Relations & Director

Phone: 1 (604) 622 -1186

Email: dave@bioharvest.com

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