

# Defence's AccuTOX Anti-Cancer ARM-002 Vaccine Exhibits Potent Antigen Presentation

Vancouver, British Columbia--(Newsfile Corp. - April 23, 2024) - Defence Therapeutics Inc. (CSE: DTC) (OTCQB: DTCFF) (FSE: DTC) ("**Defence**" or the "**Company**"), a Canadian biopharmaceutical company developing novel immune-oncology therapeutics and drug delivery technologies, is pleased to announce that its second-generation ARM<sup>TM</sup> anti-cancer vaccine using AccuTOX<sup>®</sup>, called ARM-002<sup>TM</sup>, is therapeutically effective against pre-established melanoma when combined with the anti-PD-1 immune-checkpoint inhibitor.

Defence's application of reprogrammed mesenchymal stromal cells ("MSCs") represents a leading vaccination platform due to its ease in manufacturing and the therapeutic potency that this allogeneic off-the-shelf vaccine can provide. The use of AccuTOX<sup>®</sup> to reprogram these MSCs relies mainly on the induction of protein aggregation. This process is known to induce the activation of the unfolded protein response, a cellular defense mechanism normally triggered to destroy any captured protein aggregates due to the toxicity and disturbance it causes to cell integrity.

"Defence's AccuTOX<sup>®</sup> was initially known for its ability to kill cancer cells. In addition, our team found that at specific doses, AccuTOX<sup>®</sup> forms protein aggregates when mixed with tumor lysate, a process that pushes MSCs to degrade these intracellular complexes resulting in potent antigen presentation," says Mr. Plouffe, Chief Executive Officer of Defence Therapeutics.

The original ARM<sup>TM</sup> vaccine was potent against melanoma. The ARM-002<sup>TM</sup> vaccine is even more potent, as it actually requires 10x less protein. This was confirmed both *in vitro* (using antigen cross-presentation assay) and *in vivo* where ARM-002<sup>TM</sup> pulsed with 0.05 mg/ml of tumor lysate resulted in similar outcomes compared to ARM-002<sup>TM</sup> generated using a dose of 0.5 mg/ml. In addition, the potency of the ARM-002<sup>TM</sup> vaccine was comparable in both male and female mice, with no noticeable side effects detected in vaccinated animals. Defence is currently testing the ARM-002<sup>TM</sup> vaccine on "hard-to-treat" cancers such as pancreatic, colon and ovarian cancers. These results will set the target indication for the Phase I trials, and it also shows how versatile and adaptable the ARM-002<sup>TM</sup> anti-cancer vaccine is.

## About Defence:

Defence Therapeutics is a publicly-traded clinical-stage biotechnology company working on engineering the next generation vaccines and ADC products using its proprietary platform. The core of Defence Therapeutics platform is the ACCUM<sup>®</sup> technology, which enables precision delivery of vaccine antigens or ADCs in their intact form to target cells. As a result, increased efficacy and potency can be reached against catastrophic illness such as cancer and infectious diseases.

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