

Press Release

## AXON NEUROSCIENCE SE AND ITS GROUND-BREAKING DISCOVERY OF THE FIRST CANDIDATE TAU VACCINE AGAINST THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

**Florence, Italy, 8 March 2013** – AXON NEUROSCIENCE SE is launching a clinical trial of the first tau vaccine for disease-modifying therapy of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Michal Novák who has dedicated more than 30 years of research to AD was instrumental in the development of the Axon vaccine AADvac1. "We decided to introduce the vaccine at the AD/PD conference in Florence, where the leading AD researchers and clinicians from around the globe meet," said the Chief Executive Officer of Axon Neuroscience Roman Sivák.

### Professor Michal Novák

*“ Tau neurodegeneration is the major correlate of cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease. Physiological tau protein is the key element in memory while its diseased form can easily destroy memory functions. By targeting diseased tau, we can protect the brain from neurodegeneration. ”*

Currently, there is no effective therapy that can stop or significantly slow the progress of neurodegenerative diseases. There is urgent need for disease-modifying drugs that can target fundamental hallmarks of the disease. "Tau neurofibrillary pathology represents the major hallmark of Alzheimer's disease. We have discovered that truncation of tau is leading to the metamorphosis of normal tau into the diseased forms. Truncated tau, when introduced into the rat brain, is able to induce and drive neurofibrillary degeneration showing characteristics of the human AD neurofibrillary pathology. We identified the vulnerable area on diseased tau and used it for development of a vaccine. Our studies showed that immune-based therapy can neutralize toxic functions of diseased tau protein and significantly improve behavioral outcomes in animal models," explained professor Michal Novák.

Axon has successfully completed preclinical toxicology and safety pharmacology studies for AADvac1 and has produced GMP vaccine for clinical trials.

### Roman Sivák, CEO Axon Neuroscience

*“ Alzheimer's disease is still recognized as an unmet medical need. Our company has been looking for the way to treat AD for almost fifteen years. Taking into consideration our current scientific data, I believe that we are on the right track to developing an effective AD therapy. ”*

The company AXON NEUROSCIENCE is a privately-held European company based in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. AXON's primary focus is discovery and development of disease-modifying therapeutics for Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders.

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