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## **For Immediate Release**

### **ATTENUON RECEIVES NIH GRANT TO STUDY ATN-161 ANALOGS AS CANCER IMAGING AGENTS** *Achievement of Milestones May Provide up to \$1.3 Million in Funding*

**SAN DIEGO, CA –October 28, 2004** – Attenuon, LLC, a private pharmaceutical company developing a new generation of cancer therapies, announced today that it has been awarded a Fast-track Phase I/II Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant entitled “Targeted Peptide for PET Imaging of Cancer” from the National Cancer Institute of The National Institutes of Health (NIH). Funding for the first year (Phase I) will be \$358,000. Receipt of an additional grant award of \$942,000 for years two and three (Phase II) is contingent upon the achievement of certain research milestones during Phase I.

The study will evaluate derivatives of ATN-161 as potential agents for PET (positron emission tomography) imaging. ATN-161 is a five amino acid peptide that has demonstrated potent anti-angiogenic, anti-metastatic, and anti-tumor activity in multiple pre-clinical tumor models. It is part of a new class of cancer drugs that target both tumor and endothelial cells. A Phase I trial of ATN-161 in patients with advanced solid cancer is currently nearing completion at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA.

PET is a highly sensitive non-invasive technology that has the potential to allow for precise imaging of tumors. However, the limited number of currently available PET imaging agents for cancer may be taken up by any metabolically active cell, not just cancer cells, leading to a lack of specificity. “Currently available agents are also unable to detect small metastatic lesions (tumor cells that have spread to other organs),” explained Andrew P. Mazar, Attenuon’s chief scientific officer. “If these metastases could be detected early, before they grow into large tumors, treatment with existing anti-cancer agents might be made more effective. Derivatives of ATN-161 have the potential to improve upon the limitations of currently available PET imaging agents. These derivatives are designed to selectively target a broad spectrum of tumor types, including their metastatic lesions.”

The goal of the Phase I portion of the NIH grant will be to establish proof-of-principle data for the use of ATN-161 analogs for PET imaging in animal tumor models and to identify an optimal candidate for further testing. If such a candidate

is identified, Phase II grant funding will support evaluation and development for possible subsequent clinical trials.

The study will be conducted at Attenuon in San Diego, California under the direction of Fernando Doñate, Ph.D., with collaboration from scientists at Case Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Doñate commented, “We are very pleased to receive this grant to further our study of ATN-161 and its derivatives. We have already shown that a non-imaging derivative of ATN-161 targets the tumor vascular bed as well as tumor cells themselves in multiple types of cancers. The STTR funding will make it possible to continue this work by identifying analogs of ATN-161 that are labeled for imaging and that may be useful for detecting a broad spectrum of cancer types.”

The NIH STTR program is a peer-reviewed grant program that provides research support to small businesses to discover and develop innovative biomedical products for the treatment of serious unmet medical needs.

### **About Attenuon**

Attenuon was founded in May 1998 with the goal of working with leading academic laboratories to rapidly translate advances in the understanding of tumor biology into less toxic drugs to control the growth and progression of cancer. Attenuon’s staff includes leading researchers in tumor biology and synthetic chemistry as well as industry veterans knowledgeable in drug development. Attenuon’s compounds – two of which are currently in clinical trials – are intended to target a broad range of tumors and the blood vessels that feed their growth without affecting healthy cells. The company believes that these compounds could thus be effective against many types of cancer. Attenuon is located in San Diego, California. For additional information regarding Attenuon, please visit [www.attenuon.com](http://www.attenuon.com).

*This news release contains certain forward-looking statements by Attenuon that are based on current expectations and estimates, and which involve risks and uncertainties and reflect Attenuon’s judgment as of the date of this release. Forward-looking statements often contain such words as “expect,” “estimate,” “plan,” “believe,” “anticipate,” and “intend.” Actual events or results may differ materially from Attenuon’s expectations. Attenuon disclaims any intent or obligation to update these forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.*

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