



For Immediate Release

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Acuitas Therapeutics Co-Founder Receives Award

Vancouver, B.C. – Acuitas co-founder, Dr. Pieter Cullis, has been named a co-winner of the 2021 Prince Mahidol Award for medicine. Senior Vice-President at BioNTech, Dr. Katalin Kariko, and Director of Vaccine Research at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Drew Weissman, are the other co-winners of this prestigious award.

Dr. Cullis received the award because of his efforts over the last decade around developing lipid nanoparticle (LNP) delivery systems. Once administered, the LNP delivery system protects the mRNA in the body and delivers it into cells.

Acuitas Therapeutics and BioNTech are partners; the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine COMIRNATY® uses Acuitas' LNP. Acuitas also partners with Dr. Weissman on research projects.

The Prince Mahidol Award Foundation was established in 1992 in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla of Thailand. The Foundation is under the Royal Patronage, with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn as President. The Foundation annually confers two Prince Mahidol Awards upon individual(s) or institution(s), who have demonstrated outstanding and exemplary contributions to the advancement of the world's medical and public health services.

About Acuitas Therapeutics

Founded in February 2009, Vancouver-based Acuitas Therapeutics (www.acuitastx.com) is a private biotechnology company that specializes in the development of delivery systems for nucleic acid therapeutics based on lipid nanoparticles. The company partners with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and academic institutes to advance nucleic acid therapeutics into clinical trials and to the marketplace. The team works with partners to develop new therapies to address unmet clinical needs based on its internationally recognized capabilities in delivery technology. Acuitas Therapeutics has agreements in place with several partners to use its proprietary lipid nanotechnology in the development of COVID-19 vaccines. These include Pfizer/BioNTech for COMIRNATY®, which has received full approval in the U.S. and Canada and is authorized for Emergency Use in Europe, the UK and many other countries.

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