

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2005

Contact: Laura Strong, Ph.D.

(608) 441-2950
LauraS@quintbio.com

Quintessence Biosciences Announces Start of Non-clinical Studies on Lead Candidate QBI-139 at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research

Madison, Wisconsin - Quintessence Biosciences, Inc. today announced the start of non-clinical studies on lead candidate, QBI-139 for cancer therapy. An abstract related to the lead candidate, an EVade™ Ribonuclease called QBI-139, will be presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in Anaheim, California. The poster presentation focusing on the *in vivo* safety and efficacy data suggests the potential pharmaceutical utility of engineered mammalian ribonucleases for the treatment of multiple cancer types.

The non-clinical study phase will focus on the manufacture of injectable grade drug and analysis of safety *in vivo*. "The data presented underscores a product at least as efficacious as widely used chemotherapy agents but with a remarkable safety profile" said Mr. Ralph Kauten, Quintessence Biosciences' President and CEO. "The filing of an Investigational New Drug (IND) application with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration is expected to occur by the third quarter of 2006.

Background

The Evade™ Ribonucleases are a novel class of therapeutic agents being developed for the treatment of cancer. These proteins are engineered versions of naturally occurring pancreatic ribonucleases, whose binding to the native ribonuclease inhibitor has been disrupted. While the mechanism for cell selectivity is not well understood, the EVade™ Ribonucleases are selective for cancer cells, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

Abstract being presented

Abstract Number LB-289: Engineered mammalian ribonucleases inhibit tumor growth *in vivo*. (Poster presentation by Dr. Laura E. Strong on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, Late-Breaking Poster Session

-continue-

2, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM). The abstract is available upon request.

About Quintessence Biosciences

Quintessence Biosciences, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company focused on development of cancer therapies. The aim of the Company's product development efforts is to develop effective cancer therapies with minimal side effects.

For more information go to: <http://www.quintbio.com>

###