



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 15th, 2016

CONTACTS:

MLSC Contact:

Angus G. McQuilken, MLSC Vice President for Communications and Marketing

Phone: 617-921-7749

E-mail: amcquilken@masslifesciences.com

Massachusetts General Hospital Contact:

Terri L. Ogan, Sr. Public Affairs Officer/Media Relations

Phone: 617- 726-0954

E-mail: togan@partners.org

**The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and Massachusetts General Hospital
launch the Massachusetts Center for Alzheimer Therapeutics Science
(MassCATS)**

*New Center is a unique collaboration among world-class industry and academic researchers
working to find therapies for Alzheimer's Disease*

WALTHAM/BOSTON— The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC), Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and five leading biopharma companies have launched the Massachusetts Center for Alzheimer Therapeutics Science (MassCATS), a unique collaboration among world-class industry and academic researchers working to find therapies for Alzheimer's disease. The new Center will be located at MGH. Industry partners, including AbbVie, Biogen, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Merck and Sunovion Pharmaceuticals have committed \$1.25 million in Alzheimer's-related research funding.

Every 66 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia. Nearly 500,000 new cases of Alzheimer's disease will be diagnosed in the United States this year. Currently, there are five FDA-approved Alzheimer's drugs that treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's, temporarily helping memory and thinking problems in about half of the people who take them, however these medications do not treat the underlying causes of Alzheimer's. Through MassCATS, neuroscientists from MGH, Harvard Medical School, Broad Institute, Whitehead Institute, MIT, Picower Institute for Learning and Memory, Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, and the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago will collectively use industry and academic

resources and the expertise of their respective labs to validate and move targets toward an effective therapy for Alzheimer's.

“Alzheimer's is a devastating disease that impacts millions of families, and I've seen first-hand the toll it has on patients and caregivers,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The unprecedented level of collaboration between these companies to find new treatments and a potential cure is personally heartening and this commitment gives hope to families throughout the Commonwealth and across the globe.”

MassCATS members met recently to share strategies for collaboratively pursuing cutting-edge research leading to therapies for Alzheimer's. Project teams will be comprised of academic and industry scientists working together to share knowledge and resources. To facilitate this effort, industry partners are providing reagents, chemical expertise, and potential special purpose libraries of compounds to enable further exploration of the biology and therapeutic potential of new target ideas. Academic leads are developing platforms that will be shared across the consortium. In addition, bioinformatics experts on the teams are developing the MassCATS DataLens, a unique repository for sharing and analyzing large public domain data sets, as well as research data, to facilitate and accelerate data sharing.

“Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and our focus through MassCATS is to help academic researchers and industry partners collaborate in their efforts to find a cure,” said Travis McCready, President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. “MassCATS will enable research that will accelerate the development of new and more effective therapies for Alzheimer's disease.”

“In working with the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and collaborators in the biopharmaceutical industry, investigators will have access to shared expertise and resources to accelerate the testing of new ideas while designing innovative ways to translate them toward new treatments for our patients,” said Dr. Bradley T. Hyman, Director, Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, & John B. Penney Jr. Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School.

About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, research, development and commercialization. The MLSC is charged with implementing a \$1-billion, state-funded investment initiative. These investments create jobs and support advances that improve health and well-being. The

MLSC offers the nation's most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs targeted to the life sciences ecosystem. These programs propel the growth that has made Massachusetts the global leader in life sciences. The MLSC creates new models for collaboration and partners with organizations, both public and private, around the world to promote innovation in the life sciences. For more information, visit www.masslifesciences.com.

About the Massachusetts General Hospital

Founded in 1811, the Massachusetts General Hospital (www.massgeneral.org) is the oldest and largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. The 999-bed medical center each year admits more than 50,000 inpatients, handles more than 1.5 million visits to its extensive outpatient programs at the main campus and four health centers, and records more than 105,958 emergency visits. The surgical staff perform more than 42,000 operations annually, and the MGH Vincent Obstetrics Service delivers about 3,900 babies a year. The largest nongovernment employer in the city of Boston, the MGH has more than 24,877 employees, including more than 4,800 registered nurses. MGH conducts the largest hospital-based research program in the United States, with an annual research budget of more than \$781 million. MGH and Brigham and Women's Hospital are founding members of Partners HealthCare System, a Boston-based integrated health care delivery system. In 2003, MGH became the first hospital in the state to be awarded Magnet designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. In July 2015, MGH returned into the number one spot on the 2015-16 *U.S. News & World Report* list of "America's Best Hospitals."

###