

## Neurolixis Awarded Grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

### --Novel Approach to Target Levodopa-induced Dyskinesia--

**San Diego, 21 March, 2014** -- Neurolixis Inc. today announced that it had been awarded a second supplemental research grant by The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) to complete the investigation of biased and unbiased 5-HT1A agonists for the treatment of levodopa-induced dyskinesia in animal models of Parkinson's disease (PD).

With this grant, Neurolixis will continue to evaluate the ability of its clinical candidate, NLX-112, to prevent and reduce levodopa-induced dyskinesia in rodent models. Dyskinesias are uncontrollable and disruptive movements caused by long-term use of anti-parkinsonian drugs such as levodopa. There is no FDA-approved treatment for dyskinesia, and it remains a significant unmet medical need because of its negative impact on patients' quality of life.

These latest funds will support experiments that will build on data generated from previous MJFF grants awarded to Neurolixis for study of serotonergic compounds. Results from those studies showed that NLX-112, which is an exceptionally selective agonist at serotonin 5-HT1A receptors, completely abolished the dyskinesia-like symptoms observed in pre-clinical parkinsonian models. NLX-112 also modified neurotransmitter release in the striatum, an important brain region involved in motor control. The current studies will test if the beneficial activity of NLX-112 is maintained under longer-term treatment, and examine neurotransmitter release under chronic treatment conditions.

"NLX-112 exhibits a very promising pre-clinical profile that distinguishes it from other drugs in its class. In particular, it is more selective, potent and efficacious than other drugs acting at 5-HT1A receptors," commented Dr. Adrian Newman-Tancredi, Principal Investigator on the project. "If the exciting data which is being generated in animal models of Parkinson's disease translates to the clinic, NLX-112 could significantly alleviate the dyskinesia that troubles many Parkinson's disease patients after a few years of levodopa treatment."

#### About Dyskinesia in Parkinson's Disease

A lack of the neurotransmitter dopamine underlies motor symptoms in PD, and dopamine replacement with its precursor, levodopa, is a mainstay of anti-parkinsonian therapy. However, upon long-term administration, levodopa elicits motor complications characterized by involuntary movements called dyskinesia. Chorea is the most common form of dyskinesia and refers to involuntary, rapid, irregular and purposeless movements. Dyskinesia may predominantly affect particular body parts — for example, torso, head and neck, limbs — or speech or respiratory muscles. Dystonia is the second most common form of levodopa-induced dyskinesia, presenting as sustained muscle contractions. It can occur either alone or in combination with chorea, in the latter case manifesting as twisting of the leg when walking, or the arm being pulled behind the back. Most PD patients treated with levodopa will eventually develop dyskinesia.

#### About The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

As the world's largest nonprofit funder of Parkinson's research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's disease and improved therapies for those living with the condition today. The Foundation pursues its goals through an aggressively funded, highly targeted research program coupled with active global engagement of scientists, Parkinson's patients, business leaders, clinical trial participants, donors and volunteers. In addition to funding more than \$450 million in

research to date, the Foundation has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress toward a cure. Operating at the hub of worldwide Parkinson's research, the Foundation forges groundbreaking collaborations with industry leaders, academic scientists and government research funders; increases the flow of participants into Parkinson's disease clinical trials with its online tool, Fox Trial Finder; promotes Parkinson's awareness through high-profile advocacy, events and outreach; and coordinates the grassroots involvement of thousands of Team Fox members around the world. For more information, visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Web and LinkedIn.

### **About Neurolix, Inc.**

Neurolix, located in San Diego, California, is a privately held biotechnology company developing therapies for disorders of the nervous system. The Company is focused on developing small molecule drugs for the treatment of psychiatric disorders such as depression and schizophrenia, and neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease and Rett syndrome. Additional information regarding Neurolix is available at <http://www.neurolix.com>.

### **PRESS CONTACTS**

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### **Forward Looking Statement**

Except for the historical information contained herein, the matters discussed in this press release are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, including: our dependence on third parties for the development, regulatory approval and successful commercialization of our products, the inherent risk of failure in developing product candidates based on new technologies, risks associated with the costs of clinical development efforts, as well as other risks. Actual results may differ materially from those projected. These forward-looking statements represent our judgment as of the date of the release. Neurolix disclaims any intent or obligation to update these forward-looking statements.