

## PhotoBiotics' COO presents at major Antibody Drug Conjugate (ADC) conference in Barcelona

London, 9 November 2011: Dr Mahendra Deonarain, PhotoBiotics' Chief Operating Officer/Chief Scientific Officer is an invited speaker at Informa's Inaugural Antibody-Drug Conjugates Conference being held in Barcelona 9-10 November <sup>1</sup>.

As Informa state 'Antibody-drug conjugates are the new talking point of the biotech world. With multi-million pound partnership deals being sealed like never before, it is no wonder nearly all industry players are fighting, or preparing to fight, for their piece of the ADC pie'. The first of the new generation ADCs has just been approved for Hodgkin's lymphoma, and others are in the pipeline<sup>2</sup>. Pharmaceutical companies are taking a real interest in this area, leading to licensing opportunities for biotechnology companies specialising in antibody-drug conjugation technologies.

Dr Deonarain will be lighting the way forward, focusing on the multiple opportunities offered by PhotoBiotics' *OptiLink* platform<sup>3</sup>. Uniquely, PhotoBiotics' ADCs are based on antibody fragments, which offer considerable advantages over whole Mab-based ADCs, especially the ability to penetrate solid tumours much more efficiently. "With the recent completion of a significant funding round, PhotoBiotics is now poised to exploit this exciting opportunity".

### Notes for Editors:

1. <http://www.informaglobalevents.com/event/adc>
2. Pharma interest surges in antibody drug conjugates, Sarah Webb, *Nature Biotechnology*, April 2011. <http://www.nature.com/nbt/journal/v29/n4/full/nbt0411-297.html>
3. For more information on PhotoBiotics' technology, please contact: **Dr Mahendra Deonarain**, PhotoBiotics Ltd, Dept of Life Sciences, Biochemistry Building, Imperial College London, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ., UK. Email: [m.deonarain@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:m.deonarain@imperial.ac.uk). Tel: +44 (0)2075945318. Mob: +44 (0)7711580914.

### About PhotoBiotics (see [www.photobiotics.com](http://www.photobiotics.com))

PhotoBiotics Ltd is a multidisciplinary company spun out from Imperial College London to explore ways of targeting drugs directly to tumours, thus enhancing the efficacy of cancer treatment while also reducing unwelcome side-effects. The Company has developed a unique and simple antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) technology platform, denoted **OptiLink**, which enables the multiple attachment of drugs to *antibody fragments*. Counter-intuitively, **OptiLink** allows far higher drug loadings on antibody fragments than normally achieved with whole monoclonal antibodies. The PhotoBiotics' R&D team has already succeeded in its initial objective of targeting photosensitiser-based drugs to tumours, generating compelling efficacy data in various orthotopic and xenograft models, and has a product ready to enter preclinical toxicology/clinical development. The Company is now exemplifying how **OptiLink** has utility across a wide range of other ADC applications, including the targeted delivery of conventional cytotoxic drugs and MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) contrast agents.