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Helicon Therapeutics, Inc. Commences Phase I Human Testing of the Company's Lead Drug Candidate.

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FARMINGDALE, N.Y., Dec. 10 /PRNewswire/ -- Helicon Therapeutics, Inc. announced today that it has commenced Phase I human clinical testing of the company's lead drug candidate in its phosphodiesterase-4 (PDE-4) antagonist program. The candidate, HT-0712, is an orally active drug that blocks the activity of PDE-4, resulting in an increase in the levels of cAMP. Some experts believe that cAMP plays a key role in activating CREB (cAMP Response Element Binding protein), a transcription factor that is believed to be the key to the formation of long-term memory.

In the ongoing Phase I study, Helicon is assessing the safety and pharmacokinetic properties of escalating single doses of HT-0712 in normal healthy volunteers. The study is being conducted in the United States under Helicon's investigational new drug application filed with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

HT-0712 (otherwise known as IPL455,903) is a compound that was discovered and tested as part of a preclinical program in anti-inflammation carried out at Inflazyme Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (TSX: IZP), a Canadian company based in Vancouver, B.C. Helicon is licensing this compound as a potential new treatment for learning and memory disorders. Inflazyme will have the right, until the completion of Phase IIa clinical trials, to enter into a joint venture with Helicon to share the cost and profit of further development and commercialization of this product in the field of memory formation and retention.

About Helicon Therapeutics, Inc.

HELICON THERAPEUTICS INC. is a leader in the discovery of genes involved in long-term memory and the development of drugs for the enhancement of the formation of memory, as well as therapies for memory-related disorders. Helicon, founded in 1997, is a privately held company formed to understand the genetic basis of long-term memory formation and discover therapeutics to treat disorders of cognition. The scientific foundation and intellectual property of Helicon originated in the neuroscience program at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. More information can be obtained at <http://www.helicontherapeutics.com/>.

About Inflazyme Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Inflazyme is a Vancouver, Canada based biopharmaceutical company focused on developing new therapies to treat auto-immune and other related diseases. Further information on the Company may be obtained from its website at <http://www.inflazyme.com/>

Statements in this news release about the Company's future expectations, including development and regulatory plans are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of applicable securities laws and the Company intends that such forward-looking statements be subject to the safe harbors created under such laws. Actual results may differ materially from the statements made as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to, risks associated with the inherent uncertainty of drug research and development; difficulties or delays in development, testing, regulatory approval, production and marketing of any of the Company's drug candidates; adverse side effects or inadequate therapeutic efficacy of the Company's drug candidates; advancement of competitive products; dependence on corporate partners; sufficiency of capital to fund the Company's planned operations; and other risks generally associated with the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. Additional information regarding Inflazyme is set forth in their current Annual Information Form on file with the Canadian Securities Commissions. The Toronto Stock Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this information.

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