

**For Immediate Release**

**Clera, Leading Canadian Mental Health Company, Developing  
Memory Protection Drug for Alzheimer's Disease**

– Clera's Chief Science Officer publishes in top neuroscience journal on the  
components of Alzheimer's disease

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Toronto: Dr. Philip Seeman, MD, PhD, OC, Chief Science Officer of Clera, a privately held Canadian pharmaceutical company, is developing a drug to protect memory in Alzheimer's disease (AD). In a top neuroscience journal, *Synapse*, Dr. Seeman published about the contributing causes of the disease. The journal has today made the article available online which will be published in its December 2011 issue.

[Seeman P., *Synapse* 65:1289-1297 (2011)].

[\[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/syn.20957/abstract\]](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/syn.20957/abstract)

Although there are today scientific leads in terms of understanding the disease process in AD, there is no treatment that can reliably slow its progress. Five drugs have been approved for use in AD but they show transient beneficial effects and only in only half of those who take them. Clera is the only Canadian drug company now developing a drug to protect memory in AD.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that approximately 37 million people worldwide live with dementia and that Alzheimer's disease (AD) is responsible in the majority of cases. Between the ages of 65 and 85, the rate of AD doubles every 5 years. By age 85, approximately one-third of people suffer from AD.

AD refers to a unique type of increased rate of decline in memory that predominantly affects older individuals. The number of Canadians who are now living into their 80s and 90s is higher than ever before, and growing. By the year 2030, those over 65 and older will make up 20% of the population and the prevalence of AD will rise accordingly.

In the *Synapse* article, Clera's Chief Science Officer, Philip Seeman, discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the current state of research. In addition, Seeman states, "Clera's new approach will search for drugs that interfere with the critical chain of steps involved in the beta-amyloid process that affects memory."

Although the precise cause of Alzheimer's disease is not known, a small molecule named beta-amyloid is suspected to contribute to the disease. Such beta-amyloid molecules appear to be excessively produced in early stages of Alzheimer's disease. "These beta-amyloid molecules spontaneously stack together just like Lego blocks," says Dr. Seeman. "Recent findings indicate that a cluster or stack of about 20 to 50 beta-amyloid molecules attach to the surfaces of neuron cells in the brain and interfere with memory."

Decision Resources has conducted a market study that shows that growth in sales of AD treatments will triple from a value of \$4.3 billion in 2009 to \$13.3 billion in 2019.

## **About Clera Inc.:**

Clera Inc., [ <http://clera.com> ] a pharmaceutical company established in 2001 and based in Toronto, is one of the few early-stage drug discovery companies in the world that are focused on seeking better medicines for age-related illnesses, including Alzheimer's disease, depression, Parkinson's and the psychosis related to dementia and Parkinson's.

Clera has been recognized as a world leader in developing better brain drugs by *The Scientist Magazine* and international researchers.

Clera is targeting the largest and fastest growing unmet medical need in the world, a current aggregate market of about \$50 billion in annual sales for the currently approved drugs. It has drugs in both pre-human and human testing.

The founder and Chief Science Officer of Clera, Dr. Seeman, was nominated for the Nobel prize and has received 21 international brain research awards. He has also been awarded an Order of Canada and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Toronto.

For more information:

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