Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals and Lonza Announce Agreement for Manufacturing of Novel Cannabinoid-Derived Drug Candidate

- Patented new chemical entity derived from synthetic cannabidiol will initially target multiple sclerosis and scleroderma
- End-to-end solution for process development and manufacturing of API and dosage form will facilitate the advancement of clinical development
- Agreement will develop cGMP-standard drug product in formats that are easy for patients to take

San Diego, CA (USA) and Basel (CH) 13 February 2019 – Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals and Lonza have announced an agreement for the large-scale manufacturing of a new synthetic derivative of cannabidiol (CBD) and its oral drug product for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS) and systemic scleroderma, also known as systemic sclerosis (SSc). Under the terms of the agreement, Lonza Pharma & Biotech will synthesize the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) / drug substance (VCE-004.8) and develop the drug product (EHP-101) as liquid-filled capsules.

“As Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals advances through clinical trials, we will be supporting them with an integrated API and specialized liquid encapsulation solution,” said Christian Dowdeswell, PhD, head of dosage forms & delivery systems, Lonza Pharma & Biotech. “Patients will benefit from cGMP-quality therapies in an accessible and efficient format.”

This manufacturing agreement enables the development and future commercialization of a novel cannabinoid-based medicine for therapeutic applications across a broad range of diseases with significant unmet medical needs. Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals has been at the forefront of cannabinoid-based drug research for the treatment of serious diseases, including MS, SSc, Huntington’s disease (HD) and Parkinson’s disease (PD).

“We firmly believe that novel cannabinoid-derived molecules with a unique combination of pharmacological properties have the potential to be developed into safe and effective prescription drugs that can be of great benefit in treating patients with life-threatening diseases that currently have no cure,” said Jim DeMesa, MD, CEO of Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals. “This agreement with Lonza will help us meet this vision.”

The development program will utilize Lonza’s global network: API (VCE-004.8) process development and cGMP manufacturing at Lonza’s Nansha (CN) site, which recently concluded a successful general U.S. FDA inspection; liquid-filled hard capsules at Lonza’s Edinburgh (UK) site; soft gel capsule drug product development and manufacturing at Lonza’s Ploermel (FR) site. A dedicated program manager will coordinate the activities at the three sites.

About Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals
Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals is developing product candidates derived from cannabinoids for the treatment of CNS, autoimmune, and other diseases. The Company has two families of new chemical entities, derived from synthetic cannabidiol (CBD) and cannabigerol (CBG), that it has modified through rational drug design to affect validated receptors and pathways pertinent to the targeted diseases.

Its first drug product candidate, EHP-101, is in Phase I clinical development for treating multiple sclerosis and scleroderma (systemic sclerosis). Its second drug product, EHP-102, is in preclinical development and is focused on treating Huntington’s disease and Parkinson’s disease. For more information, visit www.emeraldpharma.life or contact: info@emeraldpharma.life.

About Lonza
Lonza is an integrated solutions provider that creates value along the Healthcare Continuum®. Through our Pharma & Biotech segment and our Specialty Ingredients segment businesses, we harness science and technology to serve markets along this continuum. We focus on creating a healthy environment, promoting a healthier lifestyle and preventing illness through consumers’ preventive healthcare, as well as improving patient healthcare by
supporting our customers to deliver innovative medicines that help treat or even cure severe diseases.

Patients and consumers benefit from our ability to transfer our pharma know-how to the healthcare, hygiene and fast-moving consumer goods environment and to the preservation and protection of the world where we live.

Founded in 1897 in the Swiss Alps, Lonza today is a well-respected global company with more than 100 sites and offices and approximately 15,500 full-time employees worldwide. The company generated sales of CHF 5.5 billion in 2018 with a CORE EBITDA of CHF 1.5 billion. Further information can be found at www.lonza.com.

Contact Details

Dirk Oehlers, Head Investor Relations
Lonza Group Ltd
Tel +41 61 316 8540
dirk.oehlers@lonza.com

Constance Ward, Head External Communications
Lonza Group Ltd
Tel +41 61 316 8840
constance.ward@lonza.com

Investor Relations
Emerald Health Sciences
Tel +1 844.828.1868
invest@emeraldpharma.life

Additional Information and Disclaimer
Lonza Group Ltd has its headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, and is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange. It has a secondary listing on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (“SGX-ST”). Lonza Group Ltd is not subject to the SGX-ST’s continuing listing requirements but remains subject to Rules 217 and 751 of the SGX-ST Listing Manual.

Certain matters discussed in this news release may constitute forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current expectations and estimates of Lonza Group Ltd, although Lonza Group Ltd can give no assurance that these expectations and estimates will be achieved. Investors are cautioned that all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainty and are qualified in their entirety. The actual results may differ materially in the future from the forward-looking statements included in this news release due to various factors. Furthermore, except as otherwise required by law, Lonza Group Ltd disclaims any intention or obligation to update the statements contained in this news release.