

**For immediate release  
PRESS RELEASE**

## **Acousia Therapeutics**

### **Acousia Therapeutics Announces €10 Million Series B Financing to Advance its Hearing Loss Portfolio**

**TÜBINGEN, Germany, 14 May 2018** — Acousia Therapeutics (Acousia), a leader in the discovery and development of novel therapies in inner ear-related diseases and pathologies, today announced the closing of a €10 million Series B financing round to advance its pipeline of preclinical drug candidates into clinical stage.

The financing was led by new investor LBBW Venture Capital, and joined by other new investors, Creathor Ventures and Bregua Corporation. Existing investors, Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund (BIVF) and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) also participated in the round.

Hearing impairment, which affects an estimated 10-15% of those in the developed world, is predominantly caused by the irreversible loss of sensory hair cells in the cochlea of the inner ear. Age-related hearing loss is the most prevalent form of impairment, but other causes include noise trauma, treatment with ototoxic therapies – like chemotherapy medication, cisplatin – various infectious diseases and ischemia-reperfusion injury.

Traditional approaches to repairing hearing loss centre around prosthetics (i.e. hearing aid devices). Acousia however develops drug candidates based on small molecules for the protection, repair and restoration of inner sensory cell function. The company's most advanced drug candidate ACOU085 is being developed for clinical application in otoprotection (cisplatin-related) and will be profiled in functional improvement of hair cells.

**Dr. Christoph Antz, CEO of Acousia said:** "This investment will enable us to advance the development of our small molecules-based drug candidates. Further preclinical and clinical studies will enhance our drugs' profile for the improvement of sensory hair cell responsiveness. This might benefit patients suffering from chronic hearing loss due to ototoxic substances or conditions like noise or age. We look very much forward to working with this team of experienced life science investors."

**Dr. Michael Börs, CSO of Acousia added:** "The medical need for hearing impairment treatment is tremendous, and we expect it to further increase dramatically over the next decades, mainly due to the demographic shift leading to more age-related hearing loss."

**Dr. Harald Poth, Senior Investment Manager at LBBW said:** "The Acousia team has developed an impressive portfolio of small molecule drug candidates with a unique mode of action. Working with Acousia in developing therapies for both otoprotection and functional improvement of hair cells, we can see great potential to offer a wide range of solutions for patients."

**Dr. Frank Kalkbrenner, Chairman of the Board of Acousia and Director of BIVF commented:** "With the investment of this round we will be in a position to quickly advance the drug candidates to mid-stage clinical phase and further the development of innovative therapies for protection against hearing loss."

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## Notes To Editors

### About hearing loss

Hearing impairment is the most frequent human sensory deficit, estimated to affect at least 10-15% of the population in the developed countries. It is predominantly caused by the irreversible loss of sensory hair cells in the cochlea of the inner ear, after exposure to intensive noise (noise trauma) or treatment with certain drugs such as ototoxic (i.e. damages on the ear or its nerve supply) compounds used for chemotherapy and some antibiotics. In addition, various infectious diseases or the ischemia-reperfusion injury of the inner ear can lead to partial or total hearing loss. Age-related hearing loss, i.e. the progressive and irreversible loss of sensory hair cells over the patients' life span, represents however by far the most predominant form of hearing loss.

### About Acousia Therapeutics GmbH

Acousia Therapeutics GmbH (Acousia) is a privately held biotech company dedicated to the identification of small molecules for innovative treatments of hearing loss.

The company has established a portfolio of innovative cures for sensory hair cell protection and functional restoration with its lead drug candidate ACOU085 being developed for clinical application in cisplatin-related otoprotection. Founded in 2012 by Prof. Hubert Löwenheim (a well-known and highly recognized expert in the field of hearing loss), EMC microcollections GmbH and BIVF, the Company is based in Tübingen, Germany. Investors in the series A financing in 2016 included Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund (BIVF), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and Axxam S.p.A.

For more information, please visit [www.acousia.com](http://www.acousia.com)

Issued for and on behalf of Acousia Therapeutics by Instinctif Partners.

For more information please contact:

#### Acousia Therapeutics:

Christoph Antz, PhD, CEO  
+49 7071 29 88 186/ +49 157 870 266 45  
[antz@acousia.com](mailto:antz@acousia.com)

**For Media:** Instinctif Partners for Acousia Therapeutics  
Melanie Toyne-Sewell, Dr Christelle Kerouedan, Deborah Bell  
+44 (0)20 7457 2020  
[acousia@instinctif.com](mailto:acousia@instinctif.com)