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## **HBM** Healthcare Investments

### Media Release

Zug, 5 December 2017

## **CSL and HBM Portfolio Company Vitaeris Announce Strategic Partnership with Option to Acquire**

CSL Limited (ASX: CSL) and Vitaeris, a privately held company in the portfolio of HBM Healthcare Investments, today announced that they have entered into a strategic partnership to expedite development of clazakizumab (anti-IL6 Mab) as a therapeutic option for solid organ transplant rejection.

Under the terms of the agreement, Vitaeris will retain control of the projects through end of Phase III. Vitaeris will receive an upfront cash payment of USD 15 million from CSL, followed by R&D milestone payments by CSL spanning several years. The agreement also grants CSL an exclusive option to acquire Vitaeris and includes future sales-related payments.

HBM Healthcare Investments is a key founding investor of Vancouver based Vitaeris with an ownership interest of 20 per cent in the company. The current bookvalue of the investment of USD 4 million (invested capital of USD 3 million) remains unchanged.

Clazakizumab is a humanized, monoclonal antibody that binds to and inhibits Interleukin-6 (IL-6). IL-6 is an important driver of the inflammatory response in humans and scientific data shows that IL-6 also plays a key role in transplant rejection.

For further information, please contact Dr Andreas Wicki on +41 41 710 75 77, or at <a href="mailto:andreas.wicki@hbmhealthcare.com">andreas.wicki@hbmhealthcare.com</a>

### **About CSL**

CSL (ASX: CSL) is a leading global biotechnology company with a dynamic portfolio of life-saving medicines, including those that treat haemophilia and immune deficiencies, as well as vaccines to

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prevent influenza. The Company provides life-saving products to more than 60 countries and employs nearly 20,000 people. For more information about CSL Limited, visit <a href="https://www.csl.com.au">www.csl.com.au</a>

#### **About Vitaeris Inc**

Vitaeris Inc. is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company based in Vancouver, British Columbia, focussed on the development of the anti-interleukin-6 (IL-6) monoclonal antibody clazakizumab for chronic inflammatory diseases. IL-6 is a key cytokine involved in the inflammation of rheumatoid arthritis, and is now being implicated in numerous other diseases characterized by chronic inflammation. Clazakizumab is a best-in-class IL-6 antagonist that has been studied in clinical trials involving over one thousand patients worldwide. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.vitaerisbio.com">www.vitaerisbio.com</a>

#### Information on HBM Healthcare Investments Ltd

HBM Healthcare Investments invests in the healthcare sector. The Company holds and manages an international portfolio of promising companies in the human medicine, biotechnology, medical technology and diagnostics sectors and related areas. Many of these companies have their lead products already available on the market or at an advanced stage of development. The portfolio companies are closely tracked and actively guided in their strategic direction. This is what makes HBM Healthcare Investments an interesting alternative to investments in big pharma and biotechnology companies. HBM Healthcare Investments has an international shareholder base and is listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker: HBMN).

### **Disclaimer**

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