

Vesper Bio Secures Strategic Investment from the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation and The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration through their Treat FTD Fund

- The USD 2.5 million investment will support the ongoing Phase Ib/IIa clinical study of the lead candidate VES001 in frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) caused by mutations in the progranulin gene (*GRN*)
- VES001 is a first-in-class, orally delivered, brain-penetrant treatment for FTD-GRN
- The investment is a major validation of Vesper Bio's scientific strategy and mission

Copenhagen, Denmark – [November 17, 2025] – Vesper Bio ApS ("Vesper" or "the Company"), a clinical stage biotech developing novel oral therapies for neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric diseases, today announces a USD 2.5 million strategic investment from the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) and The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD) through their Treat FTD Fund.

The funding will support the ongoing Phase Ib/IIa SORT-IN-2 clinical study evaluating VES001 in asymptomatic carriers with frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) caused by mutations in the progranulin gene (*GRN*). VES001 is a first-in-class, orally administered, brain-penetrant and selective sortilin inhibitor, which elevates levels of progranulin, a protein vital for neuronal health and for which FTD-GRN patients are partially deficient. In contrast to antibody-mediated degradation of sortilin, VES001 does not affect sortilin levels crucial for neuronal health.

Jacob Falck Hansen, Chief Executive Officer at Vesper Bio, said: "Receiving this support from ADDF and AFTD via the Treat FTD Fund represents an exciting opportunity to advance our scientific strategy and mission, and a testament to the strong progress in our pipeline. This partnership will strengthen our ability to further progress the development of VES001 and bring hope to FTD patients and their families".

"The Treat FTD Fund reflects AFTD's commitment to advancing promising treatments like VES001 through the complex process of drug development for FTD," said AFTD CEO Susan L-J Dickinson, MSGC. "With support from our donors and our partnership with the ADDF, we're proud to help researchers move this work forward."

"Vesper's development of VES001 to restore progranulin in both asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals with GRN mutations represents a targeted, mechanism-based strategy for treating FTD," said Dr. Howard Fillit, Co-Founder and Chief Science Officer at the



ADDF. "Vesper's positive topline results for its Phase Ib/IIa study are encouraging and a step forward to translating innovative science into potentially meaningful treatments for patients and families affected by FTD. Funding through the Treat FTD Program enables researchers to advance the clinical development of new and promising approaches to the treatment of frontotemporal degeneration."

The Treat FTD Fund, launched in 2016 by the ADDF and the AFTD, invests in clinical studies aimed at developing novel treatments or biomarkers for FTD disorders. Vesper plans to use the funds to finalize ongoing Phase Ib/IIa SORT-IN-2 clinical study that will fully report in Q1 2026 and will in parallel prepare for a Phase IIb/III clinical registrational study to evaluate VES001's efficacy on clinical progression and biomarker endpoints in symptomatic FTD-GRN patients. The company continues to collaborate closely with leading academic, industry and patient advocacy partners in the FTD community globally.

For more information about the study (NCT06705192), please visit <u>www.clinicaltrials.gov</u>.

For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

About Vesper Bio

Vesper Bio is a clinical stage biotech and world leader in sortilin receptor biology. Vesper is developing small molecule-based selective sortilin inhibitors as novel oral therapies for neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric diseases. VES001, its lead compound, is a patient friendly, first-in-class, brain penetrant, oral treatment which targets progranulin deficiency, a major underlying cause of a genetically driven type of frontotemporal degeneration (FTDGRN). VES001 is a competitive sortilin inhibitor that selectively prevents degradation of



progranulin while preserving sortilin levels and functions crucial for neuronal health, in contrast to antibody-mediated degradation of sortilin. With VES001, Vesper aims at normalising levels of progranulin and reducing neuroinflammation and disease progression in both asymptomatic and symptomatic FTD-GRN patients. For further information please visit, https://www.vesperbio.com/.

About The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF)

Founded in 1998 by Leonard A. and Ronald S. Lauder, the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation is dedicated to rapidly accelerating the development of drugs to prevent, treat, and cure Alzheimer's disease. The ADDF is the only public charity solely focused on funding the development of drugs for Alzheimer's, employing a venture philanthropy model to support research in academia and the biotech industry. The ADDF's leadership and contributions to the field have played a pivotal role in bringing the first Alzheimer's PET scan (Amyvid®) and blood test (PrecivityAD®) to market, as well as fueling the current robust and diverse drug pipeline. Through the generosity of its donors, the ADDF has awarded more than \$370 million to fund 765 Alzheimer's drug development, biomarker, and prevention programs in 21 countries. To learn more, please visit: http://www.alzdiscovery.org/.

About the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration

Online at <u>theaftd.org</u>, AFTD is the largest national nonprofit devoted to providing resources to help families affected by FTD today, and advancing research to foster accurate diagnosis, treatments, and a cure. Our volunteer-founded organization – driven by thousands of volunteers and donors – reflects a community's profound determination to #endFTD.

About frontotemporal degeneration (FTD)

Frontotemporal degeneration (FTD), also known as frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD), is a group of brain disorders that cause degeneration in the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain. FTD impacts a person's behaviour, judgement, communication and ability to participate in all activities of daily living. It is the most common cause of dementia in people under the age of 60 and is often misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's disease. FTD-GRN is a form of FTD caused by mutations of the progranulin gene (GRN), resulting in low progranulin levels. FTD-GRN is thought to account for a quarter of familial FTD cases.