

For Immediate Release

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**The Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation, and Asklepios
Biopharmaceutical, Inc. Announce Research Collaboration**

Edison, NJ, January 18, 2005 ---- The Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (“MTF”), and Asklepios Biopharmaceutical Inc. (“AskBio”), a private development-stage biotechnology company, announced today that they have entered into a research collaboration to jointly develop and commercialize novel solutions to orthopedic tissue repair.

Through this collaboration, MTF gains access to AskBio’s extensive expertise in targeting and delivery of therapeutic genetic cargo to patients’ cells utilizing a platform technology, the Biological Nano Particle (BNP[™]). AskBio’s BNP’s have clinical advantages in delivering genetic therapeutic cargo to a platform of applications, which MTF will apply to improve the performance of allograft in an array of orthopedic procedures.

Specific terms of the agreement have not been made public, but include an investment in AskBio by MTF, a commitment by MTF to develop and commercialize the technology, and AskBio providing supply and assistance in this endeavor.

“This is an exciting opportunity for MTF to be working together with Asklepios”, stated Bruce Stroeve, President and CEO of MTF. “We believe the combination of the Biological Nano Particles and the native architecture and compatibility provided by allograft tissue has the potential to produce a superior graft equal to the ‘gold standard’ of the patient’s own tissue.”

“We are looking forward to working closely with the world’s largest and most respected allograft provider. This collaboration facilitates a combined platform of expertise and resources to jointly develop clinical applications in a progressive growth market. The collaborative effort, which is supported by AskBio’s BNP technology, will enable us to bring another clinical program into our product pipeline, validating the platform diversity of our technology and expertise. With our current program in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy well underway, the addition of the allograft collaboration enables us to implement synergistic process, safety, and regulatory improvements across both programs, thereby developing a more efficient pathforward to commercialization,” said Sheila Mikhail, CEO of AskBio.

About ASKLÊPIOS BioPharmaceutical, Inc.

AskBio is a private development-stage biotechnology company engaged in the development of novel, cellular based, protein therapies using a proprietary Biological Nano Particle (“BNP[™]”) technology platform. BNPs may be used to deliver a broad variety of biological material to a cell, including therapeutic genes, monoclonal antibodies, RNAi, and vaccines, among others. The company’s mature intellectual property portfolio is the result of over \$35 million in government grants and other funding and is based on the scientific work of Professor R. Jude Samulski, Director of Gene Therapy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The company is currently engaged in multiple cellular based therapeutic programs and will commence a Phase I clinical trial for its Duchene Muscular Dystrophy program in the summer of 2005. For additional information, visit AskBio’s web site at <http://www.askbio.com>

About Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation

The Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation is the country's largest full service tissue organization dedicated to providing quality tissue through a commitment to excellence in education, research, recovery and care for recipients, donors and their families. A not-for-profit organization, MTF is a consortium of academic medical institutions and organ and tissue recovery organizations across the country. In 2004, more than 340,000 tissue grafts were distributed by MTF, helping over 225,000 patients. For more information, please visit MTF's website at www.mtf.org.