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*Clinical Trial Services Contract in Rett Syndrome with Neuren Pharmaceuticals Ltd.*

**New York, NY, January 18th, 2012** – Autism Therapeutics announced today that In the second half of 2011, Autism Therapeutics Ltd signed a contract with Neuren Pharmaceuticals Ltd. to provide clinical trial services. The Company is supporting Neuren in planned clinical studies of NNZ-2566 in Rett Syndrome, making use of Autism Therapeutics' experience and expertise in clinical study design and subpopulation/stratification design in developmental disorders.

*About Rett Syndrome*

Rett Syndrome is the largest single cause of inherited intellectual handicap in girls and the largest known cause of autism in girls. It is a genetically determined severe neurological disorder in which affected individuals are intellectually handicapped to varying degrees and display a variety of psychiatric symptoms. The disorder is primarily caused by loss of function mutations of the *Mecp2* gene – that is, Rett Syndrome is a monogenetic disorder. This gene codes for a product known as the methyl CpG binding protein 2, or MeCP2 protein. The MeCP2 protein functions to control the methylation status of gene promoters, and therefore gene expression, leading to many downstream effects.

Rett Syndrome is characterised by normal early growth and development followed by a slowing of development, loss of purposeful use of the hands, distinctive hand movements, slowed brain and head growth, problems with walking, seizures, and intellectual disability and apparent autism. The syndrome is also associated with abnormalities of cardiac function, breathing and feeding, and sudden death.

At least seven studies in six countries have examined the epidemiology of Rett Syndrome, reporting a mean prevalence of 1 in 20,569 of the population. The prevalence in males is less well studied, predominantly because it is thought inactivating mutations of MECP2 may cause embryonic lethality in males. This data suggests a total US population of 15,044 individuals with Rett Syndrome (US population as of June 2010 assumed to be 309,445,400). For EU27 the corresponding patient population size would

be 23,800 (EU27 population assumed to be 489,601,562 as of 2009).

There remains an unmet medical need for an effective pharmacotherapy to treat the core symptoms of this serious disorder given that there are no FDA approved medications for Rett Syndrome.

### *About Autism Therapeutics*

Autism Therapeutics ("AT") is a biopharmaceutical company seeking to develop pharmaceutical therapies to treat the unmet medical needs of patients with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Rett Syndrome and Fragile-X Syndrome. AT, in part through its partnership with Personalized Pharmaceutical Systems LLC, is particularly focused on identifying and targeting specific subgroups within each diagnosis to achieve a safer and more effective drug development process. For more information, please visit **[www.AutismTherapeutics.com](http://www.AutismTherapeutics.com)**