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For Immediate Release  
January 31, 2014

**Foundation Venture Capital Group portfolio company,  
Snowdon, issued patents to treat pain and advance drug discovery**

Drug discovery and development company Snowdon Inc., a Foundation Venture Capital Group portfolio company, has been issued two new patents to treat neuropathic pain and to expand its molecular search software tools.

The Glutamate Receptor Modulators and Therapeutics Agents patent (US #8614205) identifies a novel family of metabotropic glutamate receptor modulators as potential therapeutic agents for pain, neurological disorders and psychiatric illnesses.

According to company founder Dr. William Welsh, the Norman H. Edelman Professor in Bioinformatics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the Glutamate patent enables the use of simple molecules to treat neuropathic pain that arises from common medical conditions including diabetes, shingles, cancer, fibromyalgia, lower back pain and HIV/AIDS.

“Traditional pain medications are generally ineffective for treating neuropathic pain. We are hopeful the new treatments addressed in the patent can offer the hope of relief for millions of Americans suffering from this type of chronic pain,” explained Dr. George F. Heinrich, vice chair and CEO of Foundation Venture Capital Group.

Snowdon's second patent (US #8200439) accelerates the discovery of new bioactive molecules, expanding the scope of a patent that Snowdon received in 2012.

"Our new fragment-based Shape Signatures software tool quickly and efficiently finds new molecules by searching our vast chemical libraries of more than 15 million entries," explained Dr. Welsh.

He says the fragment-based Shape Signatures approach works like a Lego toy that builds an assortment of objects by assembling interconnecting parts. The fragment-based approach assembles smaller molecular fragments into novel, intact molecules that possess the desired biological activities.

Previously, Snowdon has advanced computer-guided drug discovery through collaboration with external partners such as the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration and private sector companies.

"Snowdon provides a unique solution to the problems of efficiency and productivity in drug discovery by integrating advanced tools with proprietary information technology to efficiently discover new drugs," noted James M. Golubieski, president of Foundation Venture Capital Group. "This battery of proprietary computational tools can rapidly identify high-value molecules that can be used for initial biological proof of concept evaluation studies."

An article that features the company's novel Fragment-Based Shape Signatures tool was recently published in the December 2013 issue of the *Journal of Computer-Aided Molecular Design* (<http://goo.gl/0E2NNX>).