ProteoTech to Receive $2.29M Phase II SBIR Award from the National Institute on Aging to Identify Small Molecule Inhibitors of Tau Protein Aggregation for Alzheimer's disease and Other Tauopathies

KIRKLAND, Wash., September 1, 2013- ProteoTech Inc. (ProteoTech) today announced that it has received a Phase II Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) award from the National Institute on Aging. The $2.29M award to ProteoTech (with principal investigator, Dr. Alan Snow, President & CSO) will fund a 2-year project to exploit ProteoTech's small molecule technology platform for misfolded protein disorders and amyloid diseases. This Phase II SBIR award will lead to the development of novel small molecule drugs for the treatment of tau protein aggregation found in the neurofibrillary tangles of Alzheimer's disease and other related tauopathies. Neurofibrillary tangle formation is one of the pathological hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease, the leading cause of dementia in the elderly. In addition, neurofibrillary tangle formation is a major hallmark of orphan disease tauopathies such as progressive supranuclear palsy.

This is ProteoTech's fourteenth SBIR award developed from the National Institute of Health, with over $13.6 million in funding acquired to develop new small molecule drugs and peptides for misfolded protein disorders and amyloid diseases. ProteoTech has already identified lead small molecule drugs that effectively disaggregate and disrupt pre-formed tau protein tangles and aggregates. As part of this project, ProteoTech has in-licensed a tau protein transgenic mouse that develops brain tangles and memory loss, from the University of Pennsylvania. ProteoTech's lead small molecule drugs will be tested in this mouse model to determine which lead compounds work best *in vivo* and are able to disrupt/ reduce tau tangles as well as improve memory loss. Other lead investigators for this project include Dr. Qubai Hu (Director of Molecular Biology at ProteoTech) and Dr. Judy Cam (Research Scientist IV).

ProteoTech is a private, therapeutic development Company that utilizes its amyloid expertise to discover and develop new drugs for treating misfolding protein disorders and amyloid diseases. ProteoTech's lead small molecule compound, Systebryl (PTI-110) will soon be entering Phase I/II proof-of-concept studies in AL (immunoglobulin light chain) amyloidosis (an orphan disease). Other drugs in the pipeline, include a small molecule drug inhibitor for TTR (transthyretin) amyloidosis, a small molecule drug inhibitor of alpha-synuclein accumulation (for Parkinson's disease and other synucleinopathies), and a small molecule drug that works both on the beta-amyloid protein and tau protein of Alzheimer's disease. For further information, please contact Dr. Roger Flugel, Chief Business Officer (flugel@proteotech.com) or Dr. Alan Snow, President & CSO (snow@proteotech.com).