



## **Brain Neurotherapy Bio merges with Asklepios BioPharmaceutical to jointly advance central nervous system gene therapies**

**December 10, 2020** – Brain Neurotherapy Bio, Inc. (BNB), a private clinical-stage gene therapy development company, has reached an agreement to merge and become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Asklepios BioPharmaceutical, Inc. (AskBio), a Bayer company headquartered in North Carolina, specializing in the research, development and manufacturing of gene therapies across a variety of therapeutic indications.

The union of BNB and AskBio will provide critical financial support and access to industry-leading adeno-associated virus (AAV)-based gene therapy manufacturing infrastructure for BNB, and two active clinical central nervous system (CNS) gene therapy programs, proprietary delivery technologies, and unique clinical expertise not currently in AskBio's portfolio.

Dr. Krystof Bankiewicz, CEO and founder of BNB, said, "We are grateful for the collaboration that we have established with AskBio, and now honored with the opportunity to jointly accelerate clinical development of our gene therapy programs that will benefit patients and families living with Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases."

BNB was founded in 2018 by Dr. Krystof Bankiewicz based on research and intellectual property developed in his laboratory at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Department of Neurological Surgery over the previous 20 years. BNB's leadership team of scientists and clinicians has extensive expertise in the pre-clinical, translational and clinical development of CNS gene therapy programs. The lead clinical program, glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) gene therapy for Parkinson's disease, is currently recruiting and treating patients with Parkinson's disease in a Phase 1b clinical study in the United States. A parallel Phase 1/2 study for eligible patients with Multiple System Atrophy is expected to start enrollment and treatment in early 2021.

