

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grant of options and warrants

London, May 16, 2011 – Silence Therapeutics plc (AIM: SLN) (“Silence” or the “Company”) a leading global RNA interference (RNAi) therapeutics company, today announces the grant to Max Herrmann, Chief Financial Officer, of options over 1,700,000 Silence Therapeutics plc Ordinary Shares of 1p each under the Company’s unapproved Share Option Scheme.

The options have an exercise price of 2.07p per share, being the mid-market price of the shares at the close of business on 13 May 2011. The options will vest over a three year period commencing on 1st June 2010.

Max Herrmann has no other interest in the shares of the Company but has subscribed for 500,000 shares in the recent placing as described in the circular to shareholders dated 26 April 2011.

In addition, the Company announces the grant to Mulier Capital Limited of warrants over 462,963 Silence Therapeutics plc Ordinary Shares of 1p each. The warrants have an exercise price of 27p and are exercisable until 24 July 2013.

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Notes for editors

About Silence Therapeutics plc (www.silence-therapeutics.com)

Silence Therapeutics plc (AIM: SLN) is a leading global biotechnology company dedicated to the discovery, development and delivery of targeted, systemic RNA interference (RNAi) therapeutics for the treatment of serious diseases. The company possesses multiple proprietary short interfering RNA (siRNA) delivery technology platforms including AtuPLEX™, a system that enables the functional delivery of siRNA molecules to targeted diseased tissues and cells, while increasing their bioavailability and intracellular uptake. A second, complementary delivery technology known as PolyTran™ uses a library of novel peptide-based biodegradable polycationic polymers for systemic siRNA administration.

Additionally, the company has a platform of novel siRNA molecules, AtuRNAi, which provide a number of advantages over conventional siRNA molecules, including reduced cytokine induction and decreased manufacturing costs. Silence's unique RNAi assets also include structural features for a next generation of RNAi molecules and additional proprietary siRNA sequences against more than 50 highly valued oncology and other disease targets.

The Company's lead internal drug candidate is Atu027, a liposomal AtuRNAi formulation in clinical development for systemic cancer indications and one of the most clinically advanced RNAi therapeutics in the area of oncology. Silence is currently conducting an open-label, single-centre, dose-escalation Phase I study with Atu027 in patients with advanced solid tumors involving single, as well as, repeated intravenous administration. The study is expected to be completed in the second half of 2011.

The Company's RNAi therapeutic platform has received key validation through multiple partnerships with pharmaceutical companies including AstraZeneca, Dainippon Sumitomo, Pfizer, and Quark. Silence is actively pursuing the establishment of additional partnerships.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release includes forward-looking statements that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors. These risks and uncertainties could cause actual results to differ materially from those referred to in the forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based on information currently available to Silence Therapeutics and Silence Therapeutics assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

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