



Lectus Therapeutics strengthens management team and SAB

Enhancement of the management team and Scientific Advisory Board positions the company to effectively execute its Research & Development agenda

Cambridge, UK, 24 July 2007: Lectus Therapeutics Ltd, the drug discovery and development company focusing on next-generation ion channel modulators, announced today that it had appointed to its management team Dr Peter Buchan as Chief Scientific Officer and Dr Richard Armer as Research Director.

Dr Peter Buchan brings more than 30 years experience of both preclinical and early clinical development working across a broad range of therapeutic areas. Peter recently held a number of positions at Pharmacia (later Pfizer, then Nerviano Medical Sciences), most recently Director of Clinical Pharmacology. He will be responsible for the development agenda for the company's portfolio of next-generation ion channel modulators.

Dr Richard Armer's appointment follows the retirement of Lectus's current Research Director, Dr Geoff Lawton. Richard joins Lectus from Oxagen Limited, where he held the position of Director of Chemistry. He will be responsible for advancing the company's research agenda. His appointment follows the opening of the company's second Cambridge (UK) research facility, located at the Peterhouse Technology Park, which houses the company's medicinal chemistry laboratories.

Dr Geoff Lawton, the company's former Research Director will continue to work closely with the company on its novel next-generation ion channel therapeutics, following his appointment to the company's Scientific Advisory Board.

Dr Roland Kozlowski, CEO of Lectus, commented: "Recruitment of these high calibre individuals to the management team and scientific advisory board will enable the business to transition effectively from a research organisation to a company executing both research and development. By bringing chemistry in house, through the development of our new facility, we can ensure that the company fully exploits the competitive advantage associated with our next-generation ion channel therapeutics."

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Notes to Editors

About Lectus Therapeutics and LEPTICS®

Lectus Therapeutics is an emerging UK-based drug-discovery and development company, incorporated in December 2002, specialising in the discovery and development of novel drugs for diseases associated with pain management and urinary incontinence. Lectus's vision is to become a world leader in developing next-generation ion channel therapeutics. Lectus exploits the power of its proprietary functional proteomics platform, LEPTICS® (Leveraged Enabling Proteomics Technology for Ion Channel Screening), and builds on its knowledge of ion channels, to develop novel ion channel modulators that have the potential to offer important clinical and economic advantages over existing therapies.

Ion channels are proteins that control the flow of ions, such as sodium, calcium and potassium, into and out of mammalian cells. They are integral to muscle movement, nerve impulse transmission and cardiovascular function. Historically, drugs targeting ion channels have been very successful and still generate well in excess of \$6 billion in global sales per annum. In recent years however, efforts at identifying novel ion channel therapeutics have focussed on targeting the pore forming domains of ion channels and despite billions of dollars spent in R&D, this approach has not yielded further significant clinical success. This is believed to be mainly because of the side effects associated with the lack of specificity of this approach. Lectus' next-generation ion channel therapeutics, selectively targeting ion channel accessory proteins, are anticipated to have a significantly enhanced safety profile with resultant therapeutic and economic benefits. Lectus's preclinical 'proof-of-concept' data for its Kv channel compounds in models of hyperalgesia represent a significant milestone for the company: validation of the company's clearly differentiated mechanistic approach for pharmacological modulation of ion channels. Lectus's compounds represent a potential first-in-class therapeutic for the treatment of pain by modulating a previously unexploited ion channel target, through a novel mechanism of action. For further information go to www.lectustherapeutics.com.

About Peter Buchan

Peter Buchan has acquired a broad experience spanning more than 30 years in the pharmaceutical industry working across a number of different therapeutic areas. Peter has held a number of positions at a diverse range of companies including Organon Laboratories, Scotland; Gist Brocades, Holland; CIRD Galderma, France; Vanguard Medica (later Vernalis), England; Apotex, Canada; Pharmacia (later Pfizer then Nerviano Medical Sciences), Italy.

Peter has held management responsibilities for basic research, screening models, regulatory nonclinical *in vitro* and *in vivo* ADME, toxicology and pharmacology studies, and early phase clinical studies. He has also been involved in the introduction and maintenance of in-house GLP and GCP systems, interaction with regulatory authorities in the EU and US, project leadership and in- and out-licensing activities. He was responsible for the DMPK programmes of the marketed drugs, adapalene and frovatriptan and contributed to the timely cessation of many others.

Further information:

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About Richard Armer

Dr Richard Armer has significant experience in both biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies through his roles within Pfizer, Organon, Ardana and Oxagen over the past 13 years. Richard's expertise is in drug discovery with a particular focus on lead optimisation activities, drug disposition and intellectual property. Throughout his career Richard has progressed through increasingly senior and broader roles within the organisations he has worked for and was most recently Director of Chemistry at Oxagen. Richard has been successful in identifying and progressing multiple clinical candidates across a wide range of therapeutic areas during his career to date.

About Geoff Lawton

Dr Geoff Lawton has extensive experience in drug discovery across many therapeutic areas with Roche and is co-inventor of a marketed drug (Cilazapril). His roles at Roche included Head of Medicinal Chemistry and Director of Chemistry within Roche UK, and Vice-president Chemistry and Preclinical Sciences within Roche Bioscience, Palo Alto, USA.

During the past two years Dr Lawton has provided evaluation and advice on drug discovery projects as an independent consultant for a number of different companies.