
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Akebia Therapeutics Appoints Michael Wyzga to its Board of Directors

CAMBRIDGE, Mass, February 18, 2014 – Akebia Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel proprietary therapeutics based on hypoxia-inducible factor biology and the commercialization of these products for patients with kidney disease, today announced the appointment of Michael S. Wyzga as an independent member to the company's Board of Directors. Mr. Wyzga will serve as the Chairman of Akebia's Audit Committee.

Previously, Mr. Wyzga served in various senior management positions at Genzyme Corporation, a global biotechnology company. Mr. Wyzga joined Genzyme in 1998 and most recently served as its Executive Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer until November 2011. From December 2011 to November 2013, Mr. Wyzga served as the President and Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of Radius Health, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing new therapeutics for the treatment of osteoporosis and other women's health conditions. Mr. Wyzga currently serves on the boards of directors of Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Oncomed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Mr. Wyzga received a B.S. from Suffolk University and an M.B.A. from Providence College.

"As a former Chief Financial Officer of a global leader in the biopharmaceutical industry, Mike brings invaluable insight and expertise to Akebia," said John P. Butler, Chief Executive Officer of Akebia. "This additional perspective will help support the company's expansion and advances of our pipeline including our leading program AKB-6548, a once-daily oral therapy currently in a Phase 2b study in patients with anemia associated with chronic kidney disease who are not dependent on dialysis," added Mr. Butler.

"We are pleased to have Mike join Akebia's Board of Directors and contribute the wealth and depth of his industry experience, in particular his financial expertise and leadership in the biopharmaceutical industry," commented Muneer A. Satter, Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors.

"I have been impressed with the company's accomplishments to date in particular regarding the lead compound AKB-6548" said Mr. Wyzga. "I look forward to contributing to the company's continued achievements" added Mr. Wyzga.

About Akebia Therapeutics

Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel proprietary therapeutics based on hypoxia-inducible factor biology and the commercialization of these products for patients with kidney disease. The Company's lead product candidate, AKB-6548, is in a Phase 2b clinical trial in patients with anemia secondary to chronic kidney disease who are not dependent on dialysis. AKB-6548 is being developed as a once-daily oral therapy, which works through the inhibition of hypoxia-inducible factor prolyl hydroxylase, leading to stabilization and increased levels of HIF α and therefore improved production of hemoglobin and red blood cells.

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