

Merrion Pharmaceuticals Plc Announces Board Changes

Dublin, Ireland 12th February 2009

Merrion Pharmaceuticals plc (IEX: MERR), an international specialty pharmaceutical development company, today announced the following Board changes – with immediate effect.

Paddy O’Sullivan, currently Deputy Chairman, becomes Chairman of the Merrion Board. Dr Mike McKenna, Chairman since February 2008, remains as a non executive Director of the company.

Harry Stratford has been appointed Chairman of Merrion’s Nomination and Governance Committee. The Board of Merrion Pharmaceuticals ‘would like to express our gratitude to Dr Mike McKenna, for his significant contribution to the Board and the company over the last year - and to welcome those members taking up the new appointments’

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Notes to Editors

Paddy O’Sullivan

Mr. O’Sullivan is currently chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Beacon Hospital. Before retiring in 2006, he spent over 30 years as CEO of the LEO Pharma Group of companies in Ireland. He was also a Board Member of the parent company of the Leo Pharma Group in Denmark.

Mr. O’Sullivan served for over 20 years as the Chairman of the Pharma Industry team which negotiated the supply of research based pharmaceuticals to the Irish health services on behalf of the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association Ltd. He has also served on the Boards of LEO Pharmaceuticals Ltd. UK and LEO Pharma SA. France.

A registered pharmacist and UCD Commerce and MBA graduate, Mr. O’Sullivan is also a fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. In 2000 he was bestowed with Her Majesty The Queen of Denmark’s decoration of Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog for his contribution to Danish – Irish relations.

Harry Stratford

Mr. Harry Stratford has over 36 years extensive and unique experience of building successful specialty pharmaceutical businesses in the UK. He has built two successful publicly listed pharmaceutical companies from the ground up.

Mr. Stratford founded Shire Pharmaceuticals in 1986 and was CEO for almost a decade. Shire Pharmaceuticals now has a market capitalisation in excess of £5Bn, and sales in excess of £2Bn.

He is the founder and currently executive chairman of Stratford Healthcare – and he was also founder, CEO and Executive Chairman of Prostrakan, the UK listed International specialty pharmaceutical company.

Mr Stratford holds a B. Sc. in Chemistry from the University of London and was awarded an OBE in the 2007 New Year's Honours list for his contribution to the Scottish Life Sciences Industry.

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About Merrion:

Merrion Pharmaceuticals (www.merrionpharma.com) is a publicly listed specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the development of oral forms (tablets/capsules) of drugs that have poor absorption and are generally given by injection. Merrion was established in 2004 to commercialise various technologies acquired from Elan Corporation, plc. Merrion's patented drug delivery technologies increase bioavailability, by improving absorption in the gastrointestinal tract, of drugs that are otherwise poorly absorbed. This can provide substantial benefit in patient convenience and safety, and might also provide enhanced drug efficacy. Merrion utilises its technology to develop new oral drugs in two ways; it develops its own proprietary drugs using GIPET® and partners with other pharmaceutical companies in developing oral GIPET® formulations of their products.

Merrion currently has four internal product development programs based on its GIPET® technology.

- Orazol (MER 101) is an oral bisphosphonate for oncology indications currently in Phase II development. This product aims to allow cancer

patients with bone metastases take a weekly tablet to get the gold standard treatment in this area, rather than an IV infusion.

- Almerol (MER 103) which is also an oral bisphosphonate, for the treatment of osteoporosis, has completed Phase II clinical trials. Based on the market leading drug, this programme aims to provide similar absorption in just 8% of the current dose, with a simplified dosing regimen and an improved side effect profile.
- Acyline (MER 104) is a second oral oncology product for the treatment of prostate cancer, which is in Phase I clinical testing. This programme aims to be the first oral product in the area of GnRH analogues. Products in this class also have several other male/female health indications.
- MER 102 an oral anticoagulant is in preclinical testing. This programme aims to be the first oral product in LMWH class of drugs, and to offer patients the alternative to daily injections.

Merrion has agreements with several pharmaceutical companies.

- On January 16, 2009 Merrion announced the execution of an agreement with Novo Nordisk, a world leader in Diabetes, to develop and commercialize oral forms of Novo Nordisk proprietary GLP-1 receptor agonist using Merrion's proprietary GIPET technology. This was the second license agreement between Merrion and Novo Nordisk, which have combined milestones of \$116 Million for the first product developed which reaches the market, as well as development fees and royalties on sales.

Merrion has operations in Dublin, Ireland and Wilmington, NC, USA.