

For immediate release

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Ario Pharma Strengthens Scientific Advisory Board with Two Key Appointments

Cambridge, UK, 12 May 2014: Ario Pharma Ltd, the Cambridge biopharmaceutical company developing innovative new approaches to treat respiratory disease, announced today the appointment of Professor Peter Barnes DM, DSc, FRCP, FCCP, FMedSci, FRS and Professor Wisia Wedzicha MA, MD, FRCP, FMedSci to its Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) with immediate effect.

Peter Barnes is Margaret Turner-Warwick Professor of Medicine at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Head of Respiratory Medicine at Imperial College and Honorary Consultant Physician at Royal Brompton Hospital, London. He qualified at Cambridge and Oxford Universities and was appointed to his present post in 1987. He has published over 1000 peer-review papers on asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and related topics and has written or edited over 50 books. He is the 7th most highly cited researcher in the world, has been the most highly cited clinical scientist in Europe and the most highly cited respiratory researcher in the world over the last 20 years. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2007, Professor Barnes is currently President of the European Respiratory Society. He co-founded an Imperial spin-out company RespiVert, which was acquired by Johnson & Johnson and has developed novel inhaled treatments for COPD and severe asthma.

Wisia Wedzicha is Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London, UK. She qualified from Somerville College, Oxford University and St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, University of London. Professor Wedzicha has a particular interest in the causes, mechanisms, impact and prevention of COPD exacerbations and in the role of bacterial and viral infection at COPD exacerbation. She directs an active research group into COPD exacerbations and has published extensively on this topic. Professor Wedzicha was a member of the Guideline Development Group for the revision of the National Institute for Healthcare and Clinical Excellence COPD Guidelines.

Dr John Ford, CEO of Ario Pharma, commented: "We are very pleased to welcome two eminent respiratory physicians from the world-leading Imperial College respiratory medicine group to the SAB, joining international medical experts such as Professor Maria Belvisi, Head of the Respiratory Pharmacology group at the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College. The SAB will serve as a strategic resource to assist Ario Pharma in the planning, design and implementation of clinical trials. Peter and Wisia will also play a key role in advising the Company on the development of new targets for respiratory disease."

Ario Pharma recently commenced a Phase IIa study of its TRPV1 antagonist, XEN-0501, for the treatment and prevention of cough in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

ENDS



Professor Peter
Barnes



Professor Wisia
Wedzicha

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Notes to Editors:

Cough and COPD

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a common, debilitating and often progressive lung condition involving chronic bronchitis, emphysema or both. Approximately 3 million people in the UK (NICE 2011) and 15 million people in the USA (CDC MMWR 2012) are estimated to suffer from COPD. It is the primary contributor to mortality caused by chronic lower respiratory diseases, which became the third leading cause of death in the United States in 2008 (Kochanek et al. 2009).

COPD is a complex disease but its hallmarks are airway and alveolar inflammation, excess mucus production, coughing and difficulty in breathing. The condition is more common in older adults and is often, although not always, associated with heavy smoking. Persistent coughing over a period of months with production of sputum is often the first symptom of the disease. Coughing in COPD is also associated with exacerbations of the disease and more rapid decline in lung function over time and, together with shortness of breath, it is a major cause of disability and poor quality of life (Calverley 2013). Medicines capable of reducing the underlying propensity to cough in COPD may therefore have a significant effect on quality of life and clinical outcomes.

About XEN-D0501

XEN-D0501 is a Phase 2 ready drug that inhibits TRPV1, an ion channel known to play a pivotal role in controlling airway vagal sensory nerve activation and the cough reflex. In preclinical studies, XEN-D0501 suppressed ex vivo vagal nerve firing in response to tussive agents and cough counts in animal models. There is substantial published clinical evidence for the role of TRPV1 in the pathogenesis of cough, which suggests that TRPV1 antagonists could inhibit chronic cough in both idiopathic cough and COPD cough (Khalid et al. 2011). XEN-D0501 has demonstrated good oral bioavailability and appropriate pharmacokinetics and been remarkably well tolerated in both healthy volunteers (Round et al. 2011) and patients.

About Ario Pharma

Ario Pharma Ltd focusses on the development of drugs for the treatment of respiratory indications. Ario is about to evaluate the anti-tussive properties of XEN-D0501, a potential

best-in-class TRPV1 inhibitor, in two Phase 2 clinical trials that will read out in 2014. The company is managed by a highly experienced development team and supported by world-renowned KOLs in respiratory disease. For more information see www.ariopharma.com