

Neuren Appoints Nancy Jones, Ph.D., Senior Director, Clinical Development and Medical Affairs

SYDNEY, Australia, 9 January 2013: Neuren Pharmaceuticals Limited (ASX:NEU) is pleased to announce that Nancy E. Jones, Ph.D., has joined the Company as Senior Director of Clinical Development and Medical Affairs. In this role, Dr. Jones will assume a leadership role in designing and managing Neuren's expanding portfolio in neurodevelopmental disorders, a therapeutic area that includes Rett and Fragile X Syndromes. Neuren is preparing to commence enrollment in a Phase II study in Rett Syndrome, following acceptance of an IND application last month by the FDA for Neuren's NNZ-2566.

Dr. Jones comes to Neuren from Autism Speaks, the world's largest science and advocacy non-profit organization that serves individuals and families affected by autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders. At Autism Speaks, Dr. Jones played a key role in the genesis and coordination of the Autism Treatment Network, which is co-funded with the National Institutes of Health. This international, multisite Network serves as a comprehensive treatment model and clinical trial mechanism for autism and related disorders. In addition, Dr. Jones has been co-leading an effort to identify and develop gold standard outcome measures that assess the key clinical features of autism spectrum disorders in treatment studies. She also recently brought together many of the world's leading experts in the comprehensive care of individuals with autism spectrum disorders in a highly successful conference that was supported by Autism Speaks, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Speaking about Dr. Jones' joining Neuren, Dr. Joe Horrigan, Vice President of Clinical Development and Medical Affairs, stated, "We are very excited to have Nancy on our team. She is a recognized expert in a therapeutic area that has become increasingly important to Neuren, and along with this, she brings a sophisticated level of understanding, energy and focus that will significantly enhance Neuren's ability to deliver on the promise of bringing better medicines to patients and families affected by these disorders." In addition, Dr. Jones commented, "The science in this area is evolving rapidly, and this is translating to a new era for families and individuals affected by conditions such as Rett and Fragile X Syndromes. I am thrilled to be able to work with Neuren's very talented team and with their unique portfolio of medicines that could make a genuine difference in the quality lives for these individuals."

About NNZ-2566

NNZ-2566 is a synthetic analogue of a naturally occurring neuroprotective and neurotrophic molecule derived from IGF-1, a growth factor produced by brain cells as well as in other parts of the body. The intravenous form of NNZ-2566 is presently in a Phase II clinical trial in patients with moderate to severe traumatic brain injury which has received Fast Track designation from the US FDA. The company is currently undertaking final preparations to initiate two additional Phase II trials with the oral form of NNZ-2566 – one in patients with concussion or mild TBI and one in patients with Rett Syndrome.

About Rett Syndrome

Rett Syndrome is a post-natal neurological disorder which occurs almost exclusively in females following apparently normal development for the first six months of life. Typically, between 6 to 18 months of age, patients experience a period of rapid decline with loss of purposeful hand use and spoken communication. Many patients have recurrent seizures. They experience a variety of motor problems including increased muscle tone (spasticity) and abnormal movements. They are never able to provide for their own needs. It is a rare disorder and is believed to be second only to Down Syndrome as a cause of chronic neurological problems that include severe communication, motor disabilities and epilepsy. Rett Syndrome is caused by mutations on the X chromosome of a gene called MECP2. There are more than 200 different mutations found on the MECP2 gene. Rett Syndrome strikes all racial and ethnic groups, and occurs worldwide in up to 1 of every 10,000 female births and affects some 15,000 girls and women in the U.S. alone.

About Fragile X Syndrome

Fragile X Syndrome is the most common inherited cause of intellectual disability, and the most common known cause of autism. It affects 1 out of 4000 males and 1 out of 6-8000 females. Fragile X Syndrome is due to a single gene defect on the X chromosome that impacts the FMRP protein, which is responsible for regulating the synapses of nerve cells. Clinically, Fragile X Syndrome is characterized by intellectual handicap, hyperactivity and attentional problems, autistic symptoms, anxiety, emotional lability and epilepsy. The epilepsy seen in Fragile X Syndrome is most commonly present in childhood, but then gradually improves towards adulthood. Physical features such as prominent ears and jaw, and hyper-extensibility of joints are frequently present but are not diagnostic. Generally, males are more severely affected than females. Currently, there are no medicines approved for the treatment of Fragile X syndrome.

About Neuren

Neuren Pharmaceuticals is a biopharmaceutical company developing new therapies for brain injury, neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders and cancer. Neuren presently has two clinical-stage molecules, NNZ-2566 and Motiva®, in Phase II clinical trials largely funded by the US Army and the National Health and Medical Research Council, respectively. Through its subsidiary, Perseis Therapeutics Limited, Neuren is developing monoclonal antibodies against Trefoil Factors 1 and 3, proteins produced by cancer cells that are associated with cancer spread and reduced patient survival.

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