

## ORYZON reinforces its Board of Directors.

**Two US Senior Profiles join the Board to improve Governance and accelerate the US landing of the company.**

**The new Non Executive Directors, Russell Greig and Greg Weaver, will chair the Compensation and Audit Committees.**

**Barcelona, SPAIN; September, 19<sup>th</sup> 2014** Oryzon SA approved in its last General Shareholders meeting the incorporation of two US senior profiles to its Board of Directors. The company will improve the quality of its governance, transparency and progressive compliance of US regulations.

**Dr. Russell G Greig** will chair the Compensations and Nominations Committee, Dr Greig has more than 30 years' experience in the pharmaceutical industry, with knowledge and expertise in research and development, business development and commercial operations. He spent the majority of his career at GlaxoSmithKline, where he held a number of positions including GSK's President of Pharmaceuticals International from 2003 to 2008 and SVP Worldwide Business Development. From 2008 to 2010, Dr Greig was also President of SR One, GSK's Corporate Venture Group. He currently serves on a number of boards including public and private. He is the Chairman of AM Pharma, Venture Partner of Kurma Life Sciences, board member of Ablynx, Tigenix and of Edinburgh BioQuarter among others.

**Mr. Gregory Weaver** will chair the Audit Committee, Mr. Weaver is an experienced biotech industry Chief Financial Officer, Director and Audit Committee Chairman, of public and VC funded companies ranging from start-up to over \$1B market cap. In various executive management positions he has raised over \$700M in new equity and debt with US and EU roadshows. Skilled in growing Wall Street support he has positioned multiple companies for sale or IPO. He has been CFO at Ilex Oncology, SIRNA and Celsion among others. He is currently CFO of Fibrocell Science, a public NASDAQ company and serves as NED with two other public US biotechnology companies where he is audit committee chairman.

Oryzon is a Clinical Stage Biopharmaceutical company and the European leader in EPIGENETICS, a field of biotechnology that tries to modulate the enzymes governing the regional functionality of the chromatin and thereof the expression of genes residing there. By switching off those modulators, genes that are improperly activated can be turned off, stopping that way the progression of grave diseases as cancer and neurodegenerative disorders.

“We are very glad and honored to welcome Dr. Greig and Mr. Weaver to our Board. They are very experienced, skilled and well connected Directors and will provide insight and drive to our objective of becoming an international champion with a progressive presence in the US” said Oryzon’s President and CEO Dr. Carlos Buesa. “Our plans are to adapt the company for the US market in the middle term, therefore planning and compliance are going to be crucial and the two new NEDs are going to play a key role in the process”.

Dr Greig commented “I am excited and enthusiastic about joining the Board of Oryzon. This is a company with proven and world class expertise in the pharmacological manipulation of epigenetic events that may underlie a spectrum of diseases, and I look forward to assisting Oryzon in realizing both its scientific and commercial ambitions “

Mr. Weaver commented, “I am eager to join the Oryzon team, at this dynamic time, as the Company moves its clinical development programs forward and effectively pursues pharmaceutical collaborations. I am confident that my experience growing biotechnology companies, along with skills in US corporate governance, fund raising and financial reporting, will help to catapult the Company toward its future milestones.”

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#### **About ORYZON**

Oryzon leads the way in cutting edge epigenetic science with two first in class lysine-specific demethylase 1 distinct inhibitors (LSD1) for oncology and Alzheimer’s disease. Oryzon has a lead program, ORY-1001, granted with orphan drug status by EMA in August 2013 that is currently in phase I/IIA for acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). In April, 2014, Roche and Oryzon signed a worldwide collaboration to research, develop and commercialize

inhibitors of Lysine Specific Demethylase-1 (LSD1; KDM1A), an epigenetic modulator that regulates gene expression. Under the terms of the agreement, Oryzon received an undisclosed upfront payment and a near-term milestone totalling \$21 million, plus potential development, commercial and sales milestone payments across haematology, cancer and non-malignant indications that could exceed \$500 million, together with tiered royalties on sales which range up to mid-double digits. The company has a second program in LSD1 inhibition, ORY-2001, devoted to Alzheimer's and Huntington's disease that is expected to enter in Clinical trials in 2015. ORY-2001 is an oral disease modifier drug able to stop memory decay and cognitive impairment in mouse AD models.

#### **About epigenetics**

Epigenetics is a term used to describe functionally relevant changes to the genome that do not involve a change in the nucleotide sequence. Examples of epigenetic mechanisms include DNA methylation or histone modification, each of which alters how genes are expressed and consequently read or not read without altering the underlying DNA sequence. These epigenetic changes may last through cell divisions for the duration of the cell's life, and may also last for multiple generations even though they do not involve changes in the underlying DNA sequence. Epigenetics is an active field of cancer and CNS research. The lysine-specific demethylase 1 (LSD1), which demethylates a histone, is an indispensable epigenetic governor involved in regulation of key cellular processes including proliferation and differentiation.

#### **About LSD1 inhibition**

LSD1 is also called an "eraser", for it removes signals in the histone, provoking changes in the reading context of the chromosome and turning off genes. Aberrant "erasing" activity may lead to disease. In mixed lineage leukaemia (e.g., AML, ALL) LSD1 has been identified as playing a pivotal role. Drugs inhibiting LSD1 produced changes in gene expression leading to differentiation of leukemic blasts cells into normal differentiated cells, reducing proliferation and reducing viability of leukemic stem cells.

#### **For further information:**

#### **Oryzon**

Emili Torrell, Business Development Officer, [etorrell@oryzon.com](mailto:etorrell@oryzon.com)