# ORYZON appoints Michael T. Ropacki, PhD as Vice President of Clinical Development for its CNS epigenetic program

## Dr. Ropacki is a US pharmaceutical industry thought leader in Alzheimer's disease and CNS disorders

## The first Oryzon senior leadership member permanently based in the US

**MADRID, SPAIN and CAMBRIDGE, MA, UNITED STATES, January 7, 2019** – Oryzon Genomics (ISIN Code: ES0167733015, ORY), a public clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company leveraging epigenetics to develop therapies in diseases with strong unmet medical need, announced yesterday January 6th the appointment of Dr. Michael T. Ropacki as Vice President of Clinical and Product Development during the presentation made within the 2nd Neuroscience Innovation Forum for BD&L and Investment in Therapeutics and Technology at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco (USA). Dr. Ropacki is the first Oryzon senior leadership team member to be based permanently in the US since the company was listed on the Spanish Market and is a key element for Oryzon's new stage of growth and a milestone for company.

Dr. Ropacki has been the President of Strategic Global Research & Development (SGR&D) in San Francisco since January 2017, a company that collaborates with biopharmaceutical, pharmaceutical and medical device companies to develop and execute Clinical Development Plans to maximize meaningful and productive regulatory interactions, as well as increase the probability of technical and regulatory success. Dr. Ropacki was previously Senior Vice President of Clinical Development at MedAvante-ProPhase after its acquisition by WIRB Copernicus Group (WCG) in 2017. Before the WCG acquisition, he served as MedAvante's Vice President of Research & Development. Prior to his MedAvante work, Dr. Ropacki held roles of increasing responsibility at Johnson & Johnson's Janssen Research & Development, his last as Director of Clinical Development, Neuroscience, Research and Development. In this capacity he served as the Clinical Lead responsible for developing and overseeing the Cognitive Health in Aging Registry: Investigational, Observational and Trial studies in dementia research Prospective Readiness Cohort (CHARIOT-PRO) program, and was responsible for assisting with the development and execution of other clinical programs within the neuroscience therapeutic area.

Dr. Ropacki also serves as Co-Chair of a Scientific Advisory Group for the Innovative Medicines Initiative-European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia (IMI-EPAD) program and as a National Institute of Health (NIH) advisor. He holds a bachelor's degree Summa Cum Laude from University of Arizona and a master's degree and doctorate from Texas Tech University. He completed his internship/residency at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Psychiatry and two post-doctoral fellowships at Brown University School of Medicine and UCLA School of Medicine, Neuropsychiatric Institute.

At Oryzon Dr. Ropacki will contribute to the strategic planning, development and execution of the company's Vafidemstat clinical development programs across indications, and particularly in the design and oversight of upcoming Alzheimer's disease and other CNS clinical trials. In coordination with the Medical Director he will lead program planning, clinical trial protocol development and oversee GCP compliant clinical trial execution. Dr. Ropacki will also strategically develop, in collaboration with Regulatory Affairs and other key internal company stakeholders, the Oryzon's global regulatory strategy to ensure meaningful and productive agency interactions. He will also represent and serve as a company contact with the Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency and other global health authorities.

"I am excited and honored to join the Oryzon team as the company is comprised of an amazingly talented group of professionals and scientists who have done a brilliant job designing and executing background preclinical studies and early phase clinical trials including 3 different Phase IIa programs that position Vafidemstat well to provide needed answers to key questions and pivotal data to inform future clinical development" said Dr. Ropacki, newly appointed Vice President of Clinical and Product Development. He added, "Vafidemstat's unique mechanism of action targeting epigenetics, neuroinflammation and gene expression, demonstrated target engagement, identified biomarkers, established dosing and oral formulation that may decrease patients and caregiver burden in several CNS diseases including Alzheimer's disease, provides a tremendous opportunity to meaningfully impact patients' lives."

Dr. Carlos Buesa, Oryzon's CEO, said "We are happy and excited to have recruited a professional of the value of Dr. Ropacki. The progress of the Phase II programs of the company's molecules requires from now on a careful design of a Product Development Plan to maximize the chances of success and approval in the different indications, particularly for Vafidemstat, our most advanced drug. Michael not only brings proven experience in this field, but is the first permanent management presence of the company in the United States since we are a listed company and is a sign of our commitment to clinical trials in the US and to our growth plans in the American market. This appointment is another step in the progressive strengthening and internationalization of our clinical department incorporating professionals of recognized prestige, a process that we started two years ago."

**About Vafidemstat**

Vafidemstat is an oral, brain penetrant drug that selectively inhibits LSD1 and MAOB. The molecule acts on several levels: it reduces cognitive impairment, memory loss and neuroinflammation, and at the same time has neuroprotective effects. In animal studies Vafidemstat not only restores memory but reduces the exacerbated aggressiveness of SAMP8 mice, a model for accelerated aging and Alzheimer's disease, to normal levels and also reduces social avoidance and enhances sociability in murine models. In addition, Vafidemstat exhibits fast, strong and durable efficacy in several preclinical models of multiple sclerosis (MS). Oryzon has already started Phase IIa clinical studies with Vafidemstat in patients with Relapse-Remitting and Secondary Progressive MS (SATEEN), in patients with Mild to Moderate Alzheimer's disease (ETHERAL) and in patients with different conditions that have aggressive manifestations (basket trial REIMAGINE).

**About Oryzon**

Founded in 2000 in Barcelona, Spain, Oryzon (ISIN Code: ES0167733015) is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company considered as the European champion in Epigenetics. Oryzon has one of the strongest portfolios in the field. Oryzon's LSD1 program has rendered two compounds in clinical trials. In addition, Oryzon has ongoing programs for developing inhibitors

against other epigenetic targets. Oryzon has a strong technological platform for biomarker identification and performs biomarker and target validation for a variety of malignant and neurodegenerative diseases. Oryzon has offices in Spain and the United States. For more information, visit www.oryzon.com

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This communication contains, or may contain, forward-looking information and statements about Oryzon, including financial projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives and expectations with respect to future operations, capital expenditures, synergies, products and services, and statements regarding future performance. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and are generally identified by the words "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "intends," "estimates" and similar expressions. Although Oryzon believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, investors and holders of Oryzon shares are cautioned that forward-looking information and statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of Oryzon that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. These risks and uncertainties include those discussed or identified in the documents sent by Oryzon to the Spanish Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores (CNMV), which are accessible to the public. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and have not been reviewed by the auditors of Oryzon. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they were made. All subsequent oral or written forward-looking statements attributable to Oryzon or any of its members, directors, officers, employees or any persons acting on its behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statement above. All forward-looking statements included herein are based on information available to Oryzon on the date hereof. Except as required by applicable law, Oryzon does not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. This press release is not an offer of securities for sale in the United States or any other jurisdiction. Oryzon's securities may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an exemption from registration. Any public offering of Oryzon's securities to be made in the United States will be made by means of a prospectus that may be obtained from Oryzon or the selling security holder, as applicable, that will contain detailed information about Oryzon and management, as well as financial statements.

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