Acesion Pharma appoints Ingelise Saunders as new Chairman of the Board.

The Danish biotech company Acesion Pharma ApS announces that it has with effect from 1 August 2014 appointed Ingelise Saunders as new Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Ingelise Saunders has more than 35 years of experience in the biotech and pharmaceutical industry. Until September 2013 she was CEO of the Swedish life science investment company SLS Invest AB. Prior to that she was CEO in three privately owned Danish Biotech companies, among these Action Pharma A/S, which was sold to Abbott in 2012. Ingelise Saunders is today a Director of the Board of Leo Pharma A/S and Chairman of the Board of MinervaX ApS. Ingelise will bring to Acesion Pharma the necessary business expertise to ensure the transition of Acesion Pharma’s preclinical assets into clinical development and commercialization.

Ingelise Saunders, Chairman of Acesion Pharma, comments:
“I am very excited about the opportunity to be involved in Acesion Pharma at this important time for the company. The medical field of atrial fibrillation (AF) has high potential due to a huge need for more efficacious and safer treatment for the patients, and I believe that Acesion Pharma’s new, innovative approach to AF could change and improve clinical practice.”

Bobby G. Soni, Board member and former Chairman of Acesion Pharma, comments:
“We are pleased that Ingelise Saunders has chosen to join Acesion Pharma as Chairman of the Board. We are looking forward to working with her to transform the company and its new and promising approach to AF treatment into clinical assets and future improved therapies for AF.”

AF is the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia and is characterised by an irregular and abnormally high frequency in the upper chambers of the heart, the atria. AF is associated with impaired quality of life, increased rate of hospitalisation, and increased risk of stroke and death. AF is often treated with electrical shock to bring the heart back to its normal rhythm. Existing drug therapies have however only limited effect and/or are associated with risk of serious adverse effects. There exist therefore a high unmet need for developing more efficacious and safe drugs for the medical treatment of AF.

As a further change in the Board of Directors from 1 August 2014, Carsten Schou is replacing Frank Knudsen as representative from the investor SEED Capital.

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About Acesion Pharma
Acesion Pharma ApS is a Danish biotech company founded in 2011 and based in Copenhagen. Acesion Pharma develops more efficacious and safe drugs for the treatment of atrial fibrillation (AF), the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia. Existing drug therapies generally have a limited effect or are associated with risk of serious adverse events, and there is therefore a considerable patient need for developing better and safer drugs. Inhibition of SK channels, an ion channel with relevance for regulating the heart rhythm, constitute a new and promising principle for the treatment of AF. Acesion Pharma aims to develop first-in-class SK channel inhibitors as a more efficacious and safe treatment of AF. Main equity investors in Acesion Pharma are Novo A/S and SEED Capital. Further, Acesion Pharma in 2013 received 27.9 million DKK (3.7 million EUR) as a Seeding Drug Discovery Award from the UK based Wellcome Trust to fund the development of a novel drug for the acute treatment of AF.

www.acesionpharma.com

About atrial fibrillation (AF)
AF is the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia and is characterised by an irregular and abnormally high frequency in the upper chambers of the heart, the atria. It mainly affects the elderly population, and it is estimated that more than 4.5 million people in the EU has AF. AF is associated with impaired quality of life, increased rate of hospitalisation, and increased risk of stroke and death. As a consequence of the increase in age of the population and in lifestyle related diseases, the numbers of AF patients are expected to rise significantly and predicts a major increase in the economic burden of AF. AF is often treated with electrical shock, delivered during general anesthesia, and/or medical treatment, which brings the heart back to its normal sinus rhythm. Existing drug therapies have however only limited effect and/or are associated with risk of serious adverse effects, including risk of acutely life-threatening ventricular arrhythmia. There exist therefore a high unmet need for developing more efficacious and safe drugs for the medical treatment of AF.

About Novo A/S
Novo A/S, the holding company in the Novo Group, is responsible for the management of the assets of the Novo Nordisk Foundation, which are currently valued at more than USD 30 billion. Novo A/S is a private limited liability company fully owned by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Besides being the major shareholder in Novo Nordisk A/S and Novozymes A/S, Novo A/S provides seed and venture capital to development stage companies and takes significant ownership positions in well-established companies, within life science and biotechnology, as well as manages a broad portfolio of financial assets. For further information visit www.novo.dk

About SEED Capital
SEED Capital is the largest venture fund in Denmark within the pre-seed and seed segment, and specializes in identifying and developing new and innovative technology companies. SEED Capital manages both private venture capital and public funds through innovation environment, Pre-SEED Innovation. SEED Capital manages approx. 1.5 billion DKK and has about 70 companies in its portfolio.

www.seedcapital.dk