Press release

Acesion Pharma recruits an experienced life science Chief Financial Officer

Copenhagen, 15 November 2016. Acesion Pharma, a Danish biotech company developing novel treatments for atrial fibrillation (AF), today announced that it has recruited Jakob Dynnes Hansen as its Chief Financial Officer to succeed Henrik Moltke, who will continue as CFO of Scandinavian Micro Biodevices that was recently acquired by Zoetis.

Jakob joins Acesion from Evolva, a Swiss biotech company, where he has been CFO since 2007 and where he played a key role in the company’s public listing in 2009 and subsequent public financings. Prior to that Jakob was CFO of Nuevolution A/S and Zealand Pharma A/S and had senior roles at a Scandinavian investment bank and at Novo Nordisk A/S. Jakob will also continue to perform services for Evolva while the company is transitioning to a new CFO.

CEO of Acesion Pharma, Frans Wuite, comments: “We are delighted to have Jakob onboard at an important time for our company as we are soon moving into the clinical stage of development. Jakob has a long-standing track record in financial management and corporate development of life science companies and in negotiation and execution of major corporate and financing transactions.”

About Acesion Pharma
Acesion Pharma recently raised EUR 9.1 million (USD 10 million) in a first closing of a new investment round. The round includes current investors Wellcome Trust Ltd. and Novo Seeds, the early stage investment arm of Novo A/S. Other investors in Acesion Pharma are Broadview Ventures and SEED Capital.

AF is often treated acutely with electrical shock to bring the heart back to its normal rhythm (cardioversion). Existing drug therapies have limited efficacy and/or are often associated with risk of serious cardiac adverse effects. There is therefore a great need for more efficacious and safer drugs. In preclinical studies, Acesion’s product candidates have shown superiority to the most recently launched product for acute cardioversion of AF and importantly demonstrated a promising cardiac safety profile. The company has in recent months expanded its experienced management team to take the programs into development and the lead candidate is now in pre-clinical development with the aim to enter first in man studies early 2018.

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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 safer 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 safer treatment of AF. Main equity investors in Acesion Pharma are Novo A/S, Wellcome Trust, Broadview Ventures and SEED Capital.

www.acesionpharma.com

About atrial fibrillation (AF)
AF is the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia and is characterized 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 over 4.5 million people in the EU suffer from AF. AF is associated with impaired quality of life, increased rate of hospitalization, and increased risk of stroke and death. Due to the increasing age of the population and an increase of lifestyle related diseases, the number of AF patients is expected to rise significantly.
AF is often treated with electrical shock, delivered during general anesthesia, and/or medical treatment, which brings the heart back to its normal rhythm. Existing drug therapies have only limited effect and/or are associated with risk of serious adverse effects, including risk of acutely life-threatening ventricular arrhythmia. There is therefore a high unmet need for developing more efficacious and safer drugs for the medical treatment of AF.