

Aerpio Appoints Steve Pakola, M.D. as Chief Medical Officer

CINCINNATI--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aerpio Therapeutics, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on advancing first-in-class treatments for the eye, today announced that Steve Pakola, M.D. has been appointed as the company's first Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Pakola will lead the advancement of Aerpio's development pipeline, including lead therapeutic candidate, AKB-9778. Dr. Pakola will report to Aerpio's President and CEO Joseph Gardner, and his appointment is effective immediately.

"Steve brings 20 years of drug development experience, including over 15 years dedicated to the design and oversight of ophthalmology programs," stated Joseph Gardner, Ph.D., President and CEO of Aerpio. "His expertise will be invaluable as we continue to advance our lead candidate AKB-9778 in Phase 2 along with the rest of our ophthalmology platform."

Most recently, Dr. Pakola served as Chief Medical Officer of Amakem, a kinase platform company developing new treatments for serious eye conditions. Prior to Amakem, Dr. Pakola was Chief Medical Officer at ThromboGenics NV, where he was responsible for worldwide clinical development programs, including vitreoretinal disease and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Pakola was the lead inventor and led the development of ThromboGenics' lead product, Jetrea® from its inception through BLA submission. Jetrea® was the first product approved for vitreomacular adhesion including macular hole in the US, Europe and rest of world. Dr. Pakola previously held senior-level clinical development positions at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Quintiles, and Organon Inc. He received his B.A. with Honors in Biology and his M.D. with Honors from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Pakola commented, "AKB-9778 has shown great promise thus far in its clinical development to provide a significant benefit to patients suffering from diabetic macular edema. I am looking forward to being a part of advancing its development."

About AKB-9778

AKB-9778 is a first-in-class small molecule that inhibits the human protein tyrosine phosphatase beta (HPTP beta) enzyme. Inhibiting HPTP beta is critical in overcoming the effects of the vascular destabilization seen in many retinopathies and vascular leak disorders. Aerpio is initially focusing development of AKB-9778 in DME.

About Aerpio Therapeutics

Aerpio Therapeutics, Inc. is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of vascular disorders with an emphasis on diseases of the eye. Aerpio is a leader in the development of therapeutics based on Tie2 activation and the stabilization of hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α (HIF-1 α). The Company's lead program, AKB-9778, is a first-in-class small molecule stabilizer of the Tie2 pathway and is in clinical development for diabetic macular edema. More information is available at www.aerpio.com.

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