

NEWS RELEASE



Metrion Biosciences makes senior appointments to strengthen its drug discovery leadership team

- *Dr Edward Stevens appointed as Head of Drug Discovery, and Dr Andrew Lightfoot as Head of Medicinal Chemistry and Discovery Funding*

Cambridge, UK, 17 September 2018: Metrion Biosciences Limited ("Metrion"), the specialist ion channel contract research and drug discovery company, today announced it has made two senior appointments to its management team. Dr Edward Stevens joins the Company as Head of Drug Discovery, and Dr Andrew Lightfoot as Head of Medicinal Chemistry and Discovery Funding.

These appointments follow the expansion of Metrion's internal drug discovery programme, driven by funding from Innovate UK, to support research into potassium ion channel inhibitors. The internal proprietary programme will now be led by Dr Stevens and Dr Lightfoot, and is based on a portfolio of more than 2,000 novel small molecule inhibitors of potassium ion channels acquired by Metrion in January 2018. The Company is evaluating the lead compounds as potential orally active drugs for treatment of auto-immune disorders such as multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr Edward Stevens joins Metrion from Ario Pharma, where he was Chief Scientific Officer. Prior to this, he held various roles at Pfizer Neusentis and Pfizer Sandwich, including Head of Electrophysiology, a member of the Pain Research Unit Leadership Team, and led several ion channel discovery programmes. Dr Stevens was also previously Chief Operating Officer for NeuroSolutions, a Warwick University spin-out company, and Head of the Ion Channel Group at Cambridge Drug Discovery/BioFocus (now part of Charles River).

Dr Andrew Lightfoot is currently Chief Executive Officer at Procarta Biosystems and in his new role at Metrion will continue in this position. He was also previously Chief Executive Officer and founder of Peptinnovate, a UK based, clinical stage biopharmaceutical company, Executive Director of Swedish medtech CytaCoat AB, and Chief Executive Officer of Helperby Therapeutics. Dr Lightfoot has also held various research project leadership positions at GSK, including Associate Director, Neurosciences, as a member of the Discovery Performance Unit Leadership Team, and led a drug discovery programme to candidate selection at GSK in Verona, Italy.

Dr Keith McCullagh, Chairman, Metrion Biosciences, said: “Both Eddy and Andrew have already supported Metrion in developing a number of internal drug discovery projects this year, and also in securing funding for in-house research. I am delighted to welcome them to formal positions at the Company, where they will play an important role in the further advancement of our proprietary ion channel research programmes, with the aim of securing significant future research collaborations with pharma partners.”

- Ends -



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About Metrion Biosciences

Metrion Biosciences is a specialist ion-channel contract research organisation and drug discovery business. The Company provides customers with access to a range of high quality ion channel assays on a fee-for-service or collaboration basis. Metrion Biosciences' specialist ion channel expertise includes an industry leading panel of *in vitro* cardiac ion channel safety assays, translational native cell and phenotypic assays for neurological and cardiotoxicity testing, and a range of other ion channel screening services such as cell line development and optimisation. Metrion

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