



Metrion Biosciences Ltd
Riverside 3, Suite 1
Granta Park
Cambridge
CB21 6AD
United Kingdom

NEWS RELEASE



Metrion Biosciences and Concept Life Sciences Introduce Integrated Ion Channel Drug Discovery Service

- *Metrion and Concept partner to provide complete managed package of contract research services*
- *Supports small molecule ion channel drug discovery, from initial screening to development candidate*

Cambridge, UK, and Manchester, UK, 15 March 2017: Metrion Biosciences Limited (Metrion), the specialist ion channel CRO and drug discovery company, and Concept Life Sciences (Concept), the business formed in 2014 to break into the international integrated discovery & development and analytical markets, today announced a strategic alliance to provide pharmaceutical clients with fully integrated medicinal chemistry and biology research services for ion channel drug discovery.

The agreement brings together Metrion's expertise in ion channel assay development, validation and compound screening with Concept's strength in providing medicinal chemistry, analytical chemistry, *in-vitro* ADME assays and investigational toxicology services. Combined with Metrion's recently announced alliance with Assay.Works, the partnership provides an 'end to end' service for pharmaceutical clients wishing to conduct new ion channel targeted drug discovery projects.

Ion channel dysfunction is increasingly recognised as a key factor in the pathogenesis of many chronic and difficult to treat diseases. The combined specialist team presents a unique opportunity in contract research, to collaborate with Metrion from an initial hit finding high throughput screen to nomination of a development candidate.



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Metrion and Concept will jointly promote the new service, and it will also be made available to existing clients of both companies. Financial terms are not disclosed but the partners will share revenues and potential milestone success payments from the contract research projects. The partners are also prepared to offer risk sharing arrangements to clients.

Dr Andrew Southan, Head of Commercial Operations at Metrion Biosciences said: "We are delighted to be working closely with Concept and are impressed by their capabilities. Concept has an excellent track record in discovery and development science, and acquired its highly experienced medicinal chemistry team from Pfizer, UK. Through this strategic alliance, Metrion is able to initiate and manage high quality integrated drug discovery projects on behalf of pharmaceutical clients interested in addressing some of the exciting, recently identified, ion channel disease targets."

Dr Paul Doyle, Group Chief Scientific Officer, Concept Life Sciences, commented: "Metrion's high level of expertise in ion channel drug discovery is an ideal match for Concept. We have built an organisation that delivers one of the widest ranges of chemical and analytical services available in Europe, and we are now pleased to also be working alongside the scientists at Metrion."

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Contacts

Katie Odgaard
Zyme Communications
E-mail: katie.odgaard@zymecommunications.com
Tel: +44 (0)7787 502 947

Andrew Southan PhD
Head of Commercial Operations, Metrion Biosciences
E-mail: andrew.southan@metrionbiosciences.com



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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 Biosciences is able to provide tailored assay formats, data analysis and reporting solutions, effective project management and quality assured data packages. For more information, see: www.metrionbiosciences.com

About Concept Life Sciences

Concept Life Sciences is a UK-based dedicated contract research organisation. With over 200 scientists within our Integrated Discovery and Development Services Division, 80% PhDs, we have renowned expertise in Medicinal, Specialist and Analytical Chemistry, Biology, ADME & DMPK, Toxicology and Project Management allowing us to deliver challenging customer projects. For more information visit: <http://www.conceptlifesciences.com/>