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## **Major Conference in Poland will Spotlight TauRx Therapeutics as an Example of International Entrepreneurial Success in Life Science**

**WARSAW, Poland, January 17, 2013** – Professor Claude Wischik, Chairman and CEO of TauRx Therapeutics Ltd., will participate in the highly acclaimed conference ‘Managing Innovation’. The conference, held at the Foksal Press Centre in Warsaw on 17-18 January, is aimed at fostering innovative business models that help boost high tech innovation in Poland.

University type start-up companies such as TauRx Therapeutics Ltd., a spin out from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, serve as an example of such innovation in life science. In Poland, such models of academic – commercial innovation are still in their infancy. High investments in Research Infrastructure as well as research programs and skilled personnel are essential to building an innovation based economy in Poland.

TauRx will showcase its 30 year journey in an academic environment at Cambridge University, UK and Aberdeen University, Scotland and subsequent spin out. Prof. Wischik will describe the trials and tribulations of fund raising in 2000 in an environment largely hostile to the science of tau pathology despite extensive publications in leading peer review journals, and the funding strategy that ultimately led to the company becoming incorporated in Singapore in 2002. Following incorporation, TauRx deliberately retained its strong academic footprint, forging broader relationships with chemistry, neuro-imaging and clinical capabilities. “The academic environment provides an ideal environment for an early development company. In our case, we hired in the necessary pharmaceutical development skills via long-term consultancies, whilst retaining an academic cost-base and diversity of capability. This strong science/technology base has been an essential ingredient of our success.”

“The journey from start-up to viable business model can be long and tedious, but with a good, sound business strategy, a strong basis in science and a large dose of tenacity and determination, it is possible

to bring your vision to reality,” said Prof. Wischik. “Looking back, the field’s wholesale disregard of the tau pathology making up the tangles originally discovered by Alzheimer in favour of a scientifically flawed  $\beta$ -amyloid consensus has proved a strategic benefit for TauRx, allowing us to secure a commanding lead in what may prove to be the first viable disease modifying treatment for the disease. The story of TauRx’s journey, from my very first findings in the laboratory to our recent launch of our phase 3 clinical studies, will hopefully help show others the way forward and provide inspiration for up-and-coming scientists who may be facing similar challenges. I am pleased to share my experiences in this forum.”

The Warsaw based conference will feature case studies and success stories relayed both by Polish and international entrepreneurs and scientists. Best practice examples from abroad and practical solutions for the Polish legal and financial environment will be presented along with possible solutions to eliminate the main bottlenecks and limitations in the Polish system. Along with the successful researcher / entrepreneur perspective the conference will provide a Venture Capital / Investor view on success factors in securing investment and building company value.

To foster such innovation, the Managing Innovation conference is addressing the opportunities and barriers in the creation of new University based, hi-tech companies with a focus on life science innovations. On the one hand Poland benefits from a substantial influx of European Funds, which in part helped to establish multiple seed and early stage Venture Capital funds. On the other hand, the tax and legal environment is still sub-optimal and only a minority of projects emerging from Polish universities and research institutes offer high commercial value. Despite the general lack of entrepreneurial culture and incentives for researchers, several high-tech Polish Life Science start-ups are emerging and becoming internationally competitive [BioVectis - Kucharczyk TE Ltd., Medicalgorithmics SA, and Genomed SA].

Prof. Wischik’s presentation is scheduled to take place at 11:00 on Friday, 18th January. The conference will be held at the Foksal Press Centre, located at 3/5 Foksal St., 00-366 Warsaw. Further details and a live broadcast of the event are available online at <http://managinginnovation.pl/>.

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**Conference Background:**

The first Managing Innovation international conference took place on September 22-24, 2010 in Warsaw. The conference, entitled *Opportunities and challenges in implementing best practice solutions in innovation management in Poland and Central Europe*, was organized by the Warsaw Medical University and the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology in cooperation with and under the auspices of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (see: <http://mi2010.managinginnovation.pl/>).

The second international conference, January 17-18, 2013, is addressing the general topic *When and how to create & finance Life Science start ups*.

**About Professor Claude Wischik and TauRx Therapeutics:**

Born to French and Polish parents, Professor Wischik grew up in Australia and came to the United Kingdom in 1985 as a PhD student at Cambridge University. His pioneering work in tau pathology began in the laboratory of Sir Martin Roth, who was the first to correlate tangles with Alzheimer's dementia, and later with Sir Aaron Klug (Nobel Laureate) at Cambridge. Prof. Wischik subsequently discovered the tau protein compositional structure of the Alzheimer tangles and established that it was possible to dissolve tangles with pharmaceutically viable compounds that act as Tau Aggregation Inhibitors. Prof. Wischik and his research team later moved to the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, where their work continued.

Initially a spin-out of the University of Aberdeen, TauRx Therapeutics was established in Singapore in 2002 with the aim of developing new treatments and diagnostics for a range of neurodegenerative diseases. The company's lead product, LMTX™, is based on an entirely new approach which targets aggregates of abnormal fibres of tau protein that form inside nerve cells in the brain.

TauRx recently initiated phase 3 clinical trials investigating the safety and effectiveness of LMTX™ in Frontotemporal Dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Patients and caregivers are invited to sign up for study updates at [www.AlzheimersStudies.com](http://www.AlzheimersStudies.com), to learn more as the clinical trials are initiated in the countries selected.

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