News Release

Appointment of new CEO, RIBOMIC USA Inc.

TOKYO, February 22, 2021 - RIBOMIC Inc., a clinical stage pharmaceutical company specializing in aptamer therapeutics (TYO:4591), announced today that Dr. Padma Bezwada has been appointed as new Chief Executive Officer of RIBOMIC USA Inc. Dr. Yusuf Ali, current Chief Executive Officer, has decided to retire. However, he will continue as an Executive Advisor and support the clinical trials being conducted by RIBOMIC USA Inc. These changes are effective on March 1, 2021.

With over 20 years of R&D and BD experience in pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, Dr. Padma Bezwada has led successful business deals based on her deep knowledge and experience in all phases of drug development – preclinical, CMC, clinical and regulatory activities in multiple disease areas including ophthalmology.

Dr. Bezwada will play a pivotal role in leading RIBOMIC's next phase of growth and value creation by completing the clinical trials of RBM-007 for wet AMD and realizing its alliance.
In addition, with her deep scientific expertise and a broad network within healthcare industry, she will provide leadership in the development of international strategic opportunities and competitive market positioning of RIBOMIC.

“Padma is the right person to lead RIBOMIC into the future, given her proven ability to drive results in clinical trials and partnering” said Dr. Yoshikazu Nakamura, President and CEO of RIBOMIC Inc. “I am so pleased and proud that Padma will lead our US subsidiary taking over from Yusuf who made great contributions , and made RIBOMIC a clinical stage company. I am excited to work with Padma.”

On her appointment, Dr. Bezwada added:
“I am honored and excited to join the talented team at RIBOMIC. The company has built an incredibly diverse and differentiated product portfolio, in particular the clinical stage molecule, RBM-007, with its distinct and unique dual mechanism has the potential to address the significant unmet need in wet AMD. Together with the team, I am fully committed to advancing the pipeline and further creating value.”

ABOUT Dr. Padma Bezwada



With over 20 years of R&D experience in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, Padma has extensive knowledge in advancing both small molecule and biologic drug candidates from preclinical through IND into advanced clinical development and approval and experience communicating with external stakeholders including health authorities, industry partners, clinical collaborators, and investors. Most recently, she served as the Vice President of Development at XOMA Corporation where she was responsible for technical diligence, partnering and alliance management of antibody therapeutics in oncology, endocrine disorders, hematology, and autoimmunity, including partnerships with Novartis AG, Novo Nordisk A/S, Zydus Cadila to name a few. While at XOMA, she was also involved in the development of antibody therapeutics for the treatment of orphan diseases such as Bechet's uveitis, hyperprolactinemia and congenital hyperinsulinism. Prior to joining XOMA, she held various positions of increasing responsibilities at Santen Inc and as the Senior Director and Head, she led all aspects of preclinical and pharmaceutical development of ophthalmic drug products. She began her industry career as a PK scientist at Chiron (acquired by Novartis).
Prior to joining the industry, she held a postdoctoral research position in the department of Blood Genetics at the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, USA. She holds a M.S and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Madras, India.

ABOUT RIBOMIC

RIBOMIC is a bio-venture company centered on drug discovery. The company develops aptamer therapeutics, within the fast-growing field of nucleic acid medicine. The RiboART system, the company's core drug discovery platform, can be used for the discovery of many types of aptamer drugs. RIBOMIC is dedicated to the discovery and development of drugs that target the broad field of unmet medical needs, which encompasses eye disorders, skeletal dysplasia and many other problems.
See RIBOMIC website for more information.
https://www.ribomic.com/eng/

Forward-Looking Statements

This announcement contains forward-looking statements relating to current plans, estimates, strategies, belief and the future performance of Company. These statements are based on Company's current expectations in light of the information and assumptions currently available so that Company does not promise the realization and these expectations may differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements. These factors include, but not limited to, i) changes in general economic conditions and in laws and regulations, relating to pharmaceutical markets, ii) currency exchange rate fluctuations, iii) claims and concerns on the product safety and efficacy, iv) completion and discontinuation of clinical trials, v) infringement of Company's intellectual property rights by third parties.
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