August 14, 2024

Abeona Therapeutics® Announces Appointment of Bernhardt Zeiher, MD, FCCP, FACP, and Eric Crombez, MD to its Board of Directors

CLEVELAND, Aug. 14, 2024 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Abeona Therapeutics Inc. (Nasdaq: ABEO) today announced the appointment of Bernhardt G. Zeiher, MD, FCCP, FACP, and Eric Crombez, MD as new independent members to its Board of Directors. Dr. Zeiher brings more than 20 years of drug development experience where, in various roles, he oversaw the approval of 15 new treatments that addressed unmet needs in serious diseases with few to no treatment options. Dr. Crombez currently serves as Chief Medical Officer of Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical Inc. and brings extensive expertise in the development and execution of clinical development programs for rare genetic disorders.

Michael Amoroso, Chairman of Abeona's Board of Directors, said, "We are delighted to welcome both Bernie Zeiher and Eric Crombez to our Board during this important period in Abeona's history. As recognized and dynamic life sciences leaders, they bring a wealth of diverse drug development expertise to Abeona. We look forward to their valuable insights as we continue to both focus on bringing pz-cel to patients with recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa and as we seek to advance and expand our pipeline."

Dr. Zeiher spent more than 10 years at Astellas Pharma, holding multiple roles of increasing responsibility in drug development, leading up to his role as CMO, where he led early- and late-stage drug development, medical and regulatory affairs, pharmacovigilance, and quality assurance. Prior to Astellas, Dr. Zeiher held various roles leading drug development at other pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer and Eli Lilly and Company. He also practiced medicine at a tertiary medical center in Indianapolis. Dr. Zeiher currently serves on multiple public company boards, including Entrada Therapeutics and Amylyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. He previously served on the boards of TransCelerate Biopharma, Biotechnology Innovation Organization and Astellas Global Health Foundation. Dr. Zeiher received a B.S. in biology from the University of Toledo and an MD from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency and chief residency at University Hospitals of Cleveland and then finished his physician training as a Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Dr. Crombez joined Ultragenyx following the acquisition of Dimension Therapeutics in November 2017. As Chief Medical Officer of Ultragenyx, Dr. Crombez is responsible for strategic leadership of the clinical development and translational research programs, and oversees global development functions including Clinical Development, Clinical Operations, BioMetrics, Endpoint Development and Strategy, Regulatory Affairs and Drug Safety/Pharmacovigilance. At Dimension Therapeutics, Dr. Crombez served as Chief

Medical Officer and led the clinical development efforts for their gene therapy programs. Dr. Crombez is also an appointed industry representative on the FDA Cellular, Tissue and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee. Before joining industry, he was assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Medical Genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Dr. Crombez is a board-certified clinical geneticist and completed residencies in pediatrics and medical genetics and a fellowship in clinical biochemical genetics at the UCLA School of Medicine. Dr. Crombez obtained his B.S. degree in biology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and his M.D. degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit.

About Abeona Therapeutics

Abeona Therapeutics Inc. is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing cell and gene therapies for serious diseases. Prademagene zamikeracel (pz-cel) is Abeona's investigational autologous cell-based gene therapy currently in development for recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa. The Company's fully integrated cell and gene therapy cGMP manufacturing facility served as the manufacturing site for pz-cel used in its Phase 3 VIITAL™ trial, and is capable of supporting commercial production of pz-cel upon FDA approval. The Company's development portfolio also features AAV-based gene therapies for ophthalmic diseases with high unmet medical need. Abeona's novel, next-generation AAV capsids are being evaluated to improve tropism profiles for a variety of devastating diseases. For more information, visit www.abeonatherapeutics.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains certain statements that are forward-looking within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and that involve risks and uncertainties. We have attempted to identify forward-looking statements by such terminology as "may," "will," "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "intend," "potential," and similar words and expressions (as well as other words or expressions referencing future events, conditions or circumstances), which constitute and are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, numerous risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to, the timing and results of ongoing testing and other corrective actions being performed in response to the FDA's identified deficiencies, which could delay the Company's BLA resubmission; the timing and outcome of the FDA's review of our resubmission; the FDA's grant of a Priority Review Voucher upon approval; continued interest in our rare disease portfolio; our ability to enroll patients in clinical trials; the outcome of future meetings with the FDA or other regulatory agencies, including those relating to preclinical programs; the ability to achieve or obtain necessary regulatory approvals; the impact of any changes in the financial markets and global economic conditions; risks associated with data analysis and reporting; and other risks disclosed in the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and subsequent periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise the forward-looking statements or to update them to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this press release, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise, except as required by the federal securities laws.

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