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Syros Announces Appointment of Alice T. Shaw to its Board of Directors

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Syros Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ: SYRS), a biopharmaceutical company pioneering the development of medicines to control the expression of genes, today announced the appointment of Alice Tsang Shaw, M.D., Ph.D., to the Company's Board of Directors. Dr. Shaw is a highly respected oncologist and recognized leader in translational medicine and the development of targeted cancer therapies.

"Alice is a brilliant doctor and researcher, with a proven record of bridging the gap between science and medicine to bring life-changing targeted therapies to market for cancer patients," said Nancy Simonian, M.D., Chief Executive Officer of Syros. "Her expertise and insights, along with her passion for making a profound difference for patients, will be invaluable to Syros as we continue to advance our clinical programs and develop novel targeted approaches for treating patients with cancers that have largely eluded other approaches. We are thrilled to welcome Alice to our board."

Dr. Shaw is the Director of the Center for Thoracic Cancers, the Paula O'Keeffe Endowed Chair of Thoracic Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Co-Leader of the Dana-Farber/MGH/Harvard Cancer Center Thoracic Oncology Program, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is also the Co-Leader of the Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) Lung Cancer Dream Team. In addition to caring for patients, Dr. Shaw performs clinical and translational research with a focus on developing targeted treatments for oncogene-driven lung cancers and elucidating resistance mechanisms to targeted therapies. Her research has contributed to the development of numerous approved targeted therapies, including crizotinib (Xalkori), ceritinib (Zykadia), alectinib (Alecensa) and lorlatinib (Lorbrena). One of her current areas of focus is developing combination therapy strategies aimed at overcoming drug resistance.

Dr. Shaw is a standing member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee. She has been awarded a number of research grants, including grants from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, the V Foundation for Cancer Research, Uniting Against Lung Cancer, the National Foundation for Cancer Research, and the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute. She received her B.A. in biochemistry from Harvard University and her M.D. and Ph.D. from Harvard Medical School. She completed her residency at MGH, oncology fellowship at Dana-Farber/MGH and postdoctoral work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"We now know that many cancers are driven by the abnormal expression of genes," said Dr. Shaw. "I am excited about Syros' pipeline programs and its innovative approach to developing medicines to control the expression of genes. I look forward to working with the board and the management team to advance novel treatments for cancer patients."

About Syros Pharmaceuticals

Syros is pioneering the understanding of the non-coding regulatory region of the genome to advance a new wave of medicines that control the expression of genes. Syros has built a proprietary platform that is designed to systematically and efficiently analyze this unexploited region of DNA to identify and drug novel targets linked to genomically defined patient populations. Because gene expression is fundamental to the function of all cells, Syros' gene control platform has broad potential to create medicines that achieve profound and durable benefit across a range of diseases. Syros is currently focused on cancer and monogenic diseases and is advancing a growing pipeline of gene control medicines. Syros' lead drug candidates are SY-1425, a selective RAR α agonist in a Phase 2 clinical trial for genomically defined subsets of patients with acute myeloid leukemia, and SY-1365, a selective CDK7 inhibitor in a Phase 1 clinical trial focused on patients with ovarian and breast cancers. Syros is also developing a deep preclinical and discovery pipeline, including SY-5609, an oral CDK7 inhibitor, as well as programs in immuno-oncology and sickle cell disease. Led by a team with deep experience in drug discovery, development and commercialization, Syros is located in Cambridge, Mass.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including without limitation statements regarding Syros' ability to advance its clinical programs and the benefits of Syros' gene control platform and product development pipeline. The words "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "hope," "intend," "may," "plan," "potential," "predict," "project," "target," "should," "would," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. Actual results or events could differ materially from the plans, intentions and expectations disclosed in these forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, including Syros' ability to: advance the development of its programs, including SY-1425 and SY-1365, under the timelines it projects in current and future clinical trials; demonstrate in any current and future clinical trials the requisite safety, efficacy and combinability of its drug candidates; successfully progress SY-5609 through IND-enabling preclinical and toxicology studies; replicate scientific and non-clinical data in clinical trials; obtain and maintain patent protection for its drug candidates and the freedom to operate under third party intellectual property; obtain and maintain necessary regulatory approvals; identify, enter into and maintain collaboration agreements with third parties, including its ability to perform under the collaboration agreement with Incyte; manage competition; manage expenses; raise the substantial additional capital needed to achieve its business objectives; attract and retain qualified personnel; and successfully execute on its business strategies; risks described under the caption "Risk Factors" in Syros' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018, which is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission; and risks described in other filings that Syros makes with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the future. Any forward-looking statements contained in this press release speak only as of the date hereof, and Syros expressly disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether because of new information, future events or otherwise.

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