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Xention Limited Appoints Dr Keith McCullagh as New Chairman of its Board

CAMBRIDGE, UK – XENTION LTD, the Cambridge-based biopharmaceutical company specialising in the discovery and development of ion channel-modulating drugs, announced today the appointment of Dr Keith McCullagh as the new non-executive Chairman of its Board of Directors.

Keith McCullagh is an experienced biotech entrepreneur. From 2003 until his retirement last year he was CEO of Santaris Pharma, the Danish RNA medicines company. From 2000 to 2003 he was the founding chairman of OnMedica Group plc, a European pharmaceutical e-detailing business. Also, in 2000 Keith co-founded Pharmacy 2U Ltd, a UK warehouse and mail order pharmacy, of which he remains non-executive chairman. From 1986 to 1998 Keith was Chief Executive of British Biotech plc, a company he founded and which was the first bioscience research company to be listed on the London Stock Exchange. Prior to British Biotech, Keith was UK Director of Research for GD Searle & Co. In addition to Xention, he is currently Chairman of Affitech AS and Pharmacy 2U Ltd and a director of Santaris Pharma A/S. He holds a veterinary sciences degree from the University of Bristol and a PhD in pathology from the University of Cambridge.

“We are delighted that Keith McCullagh has agreed to join our Board of Directors” commented Tim Brears, Xention’s chief executive. “Keith’s many years of experience in pharmaceutical drug development will be invaluable as we transition from a discovery science company into a new drug research and development business. I look forward to working closely with him as we progress our candidate products through human clinical trials and establish strong partnerships with other pharma businesses.”

Accepting the position, Dr McCullagh added: “I am delighted to be joining such an active company and board. Xention has already advanced several compounds into clinical development for the treatment of common cardiovascular and urological conditions.



With trial results expected shortly, the company shows exciting prospects for the future. I look forward to working with the Xention team and assisting them in delivering attractive returns to shareholders”.

David Ebsworth, who is stepping down as Chairman, will remain on the board as a non-executive director. Thanking Dr Ebsworth, Tim Brears said “On behalf of the Board and our shareholders, I would like to thank David for the effective way in which he has chaired the Company over the last three years. We are delighted that he has agreed to continue to serve as a non-executive Director and support the Company.”

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Notes to Editors:

Should you wish to meet the management of Xention on a one-to one basis at any of the above conferences, please feel free to contact the company directly or through us on m.wort@defacto.com or a.dunphy@defacto.com

Xention Ltd is a leader in the discovery and development of ion channel-modulating drugs. The Company’s potential breakthrough drugs in clinical development include XEN-D0101, a new atrial selective potassium channel blocker for atrial fibrillation, and XEN-D0501, a novel ion channel modulator for the treatment of overactive bladder. Xention also has preclinical research programmes in atrial fibrillation, pain and autoimmune disease. The Company uses proprietary ion channel expertise and technologies to accelerate the discovery of potent and selective ion channel drugs. In particular, Xention is a leader in the use of true electrophysiological data, ion channel chemoinformatics and experienced medicinal chemistry to identify potent new small molecule drugs in this rapidly evolving field of medicine. For further information, please see their website <http://www.xention.com>.