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QRxPharma and University of Alabama at Birmingham Collaborate on Research Program for Parkinson's Disease

University of Alabama at Birmingham to Conduct Target Validation

Sydney, Australia & Bedminster, New Jersey – QRxPharma Limited (ASX:QRX and OTCQX:QRXPY), a clinical-stage specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialisation of therapies for pain and central nervous system disorders, announced today the award of grant funding from the Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF) to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics (CNET, www.uab.edu/CNET). The purpose of the grant is to validate TorsinA in mammalian models as a therapeutic target for Parkinson's Disease (PD). QRxPharma's Torsin technology platform — licensed from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa (UA) — relates to the role of the TorsinA gene, protein and small-molecule activators that have been shown to suppress the harmful misfolding of proteins within nerve cells, leading to neurodegenerative disorders such as PD.

“We are pleased The Michael J. Fox Foundation is supporting UAB's efforts to validate TorsinA as a therapeutic target,” said Dr. John Holaday, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, QRxPharma. “These basic studies will further reinforce the strong intellectual property we licensed from the UA, including breakthrough treatments for neurological diseases such as PD, dystonia and Alzheimer's disease.”

“We are excited to be working with the MJFF, UA, and QRxPharma,” said Dr. Standaert, Director of the CNET at UAB. “This grant supports a focused research program, aimed at enabling the rapid development of TorsinA-based treatments for Parkinson's disease.”

Dr. Standaert will work to evaluate the clinical utility and benefit of TorsinA in protecting brain neurons against certain misfolded proteins, like alpha synuclein, which cause PD in mammalian models. “The modulation of TorsinA points to a new direction for treating PD at what may be one of its root causes — the toxic effects of misfolded proteins that accumulate in critical brain cells — and not simply treating the symptomatic effects of PD with existing drugs,” said Holaday. The Company supports additional studies at UA's Caldwell Laboratory to directly assess the efficacy of these known small-molecule drug candidates as potential neuroprotective agents.



QRxPharma's Torsin-based product portfolio emphasizes a family of small molecules that enhance TorsinA mediated activity and neuroprotection in preclinical models of PD and other neurological disorders. The Company's goal, based on research at the Caldwell Laboratory and Dr. Standaert's team at CNET, is to re-engineer existing drugs with a known history of use that activate the Torsin system with the potential to ameliorate PD at a causative level.

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Forward Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. The forward-looking statements contained herein represent the judgment of QRxPharma as of the date of this release. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees for future performance. Actual results could differ materially from those currently anticipated to due to a number of factors including risks relating to the stage of products under development; uncertainties relating to clinical trials; dependence on third parties; future capital needs; and risks relating to the commercialisation of the Company's proposed products.

About QRxPharma

QRxPharma (ASX: QRX) is a clinical-stage specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialisation of new treatments for pain management and central nervous system (CNS) disorders. Based on a development strategy which focuses on enhancing and expanding the clinical utility of currently marketed compounds, the Company's product portfolio includes both late and early stage clinical drug candidates with the potential for reduced risk, abbreviated development paths, and improved patient outcomes. The Company intends to directly commercialise its products in the US and seek strategic partnerships abroad. QRxPharma's lead compound, Q8003IR, successfully completed a Phase 3 study and met primary and secondary endpoints. The Company's preclinical and clinical pipeline includes other technologies in the fields of pain management, neurodegenerative disease and venomics. For more information: www.QRxPharma.com.