



MEDIA RELEASE

Ascend appoints Professor Jacques Banchereau as Non-executive director

December 20, 2016:

Private, unlisted company Ascend Biopharmaceuticals today announced that Professor Jacques Banchereau has joined the company as non-executive director. Professor Banchereau is an internationally prominent immunologist with a 35-year track record of leadership in human academic and industrial research leadership. At the Schering-Plough/DNAX Laboratory for Immunological Research in Lyon, France, Dr. Banchereau made significant contributions towards 1) the discovery and characterization of numerous human cytokines, including IL4, IL-10, IL-13, IL-17 and GM-CSF; 2) human B-cell biology, in particular B-cell growth, differentiation and isotype switching; 3) developing methods for *in vitro*-generation of human dendritic cells (DCs) and 4) functional characterization of various DC subsets. As Director of the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research (BIIR) in Dallas, Texas, Dr Banchereau facilitated major advances in our understanding of human DC biology and the therapeutic use of DCs in cancer and infectious diseases. Dr Banchereau also helped to identify the role of Type I interferon in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) and IL-1 in Systemic Onset Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (sJIA), which led to the novel application of IL-1 antagonists as powerful therapeutics for juvenile arthritic disease. Dr. Banchereau also contributed to the development of DC-based vaccines for use in a series of clinical trials for the treatment of metastatic melanoma as well as for HIV infection. As Chief Scientific Officer of the Hoffmann-La Roche (Roche) Nutley, NJ campus, Dr. Banchereau oversaw the Discovery and Development unit (including Phase IIb clinical trials) in the areas of virology and inflammation. Dr. Banchereau is currently Professor, Director of Immunological Sciences and the Deputy Director of JAX Genomic Medicine (JAX-GM) facility in Farmington, CT. Dr. Banchereau is a graduate of University of Angers, France and University of Paris and has published greater 450 original research papers and reviews.

Ascend Biopharmaceuticals is currently advancing ASN-002 an immunotherapy being developed for the treatment of nodular basal cell carcinoma, particularly for patients that are expected to have difficult surgeries or likely to have post-surgery complications. Interim results reported earlier in November showed a highly encouraging complete response rates. The company is also advancing a



pipeline of oncology candidates that trigger multiple regulated cell death pathways and in particular aim to induce highly immunogenic forms of cell death. The company has recently brought together a notable advisory board that is on the vanguard of necroptosis to assist with its pipeline and programs.

-ENDS-

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About Ascend Biopharmaceuticals

Ascend is a cancer immunotherapy company developing medicines to treat primary, recurrent and metastatic cancers. Ascend applies a number of different technologies and approaches utilizing viral vectors, and affinity agents that can be conjugated to deliver biologicals and small molecule (immune modulators or chemotherapeutics) payloads. We believe that applying a combination chemo-immunotherapeutic approach has the potential to materially improve therapeutic outcomes.

Please visit www.ascendbiopharma.com or call +61 3 8606 3488.