



**OxStem Limited Establishes Two New Subsidiary Companies:
'OxStem Neuro' and 'OxStem Ocular'**



4th August 2016

Following the successful launch of OxStem Ltd and its first subsidiary OxStem Oncology in May this year, OxStem today launched its second and third subsidiary companies, OxStem Neuro and OxStem Ocular. Both companies are co-founded by chemists Prof Steve Davies and Prof Angela Russell alongside disease-specific experts, Prof Francis Szele (Neuro) and Prof Robert MacLaren (Ocular) with the intention of tackling age-related diseases with high unmet clinical need.

OxStem Neuro

Pioneering neurobiologist Prof Francis Szele – Associate Professor of Developmental Biology at the University of Oxford's Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics – is leading the team with additional co-founders specialist neurobiologist Dr Julie Davies and highly experienced medicinal chemist Dr Graham Wynne contributing further expertise as part of the five-strong co-founding team.

The company aims to identify drugs that will stimulate de novo neuron production from neural stem cells that will compensate for disease pathology in neurodegenerative diseases (such as Alzheimer's Disease), stroke and traumatic brain injury. Prof Szele commented: "OxStem Neuro is tackling some of the most debilitating diseases of ageing – those of the brain. This revolutionary approach to treatment by enhancing natural neural repair processes has the potential to change many lives for the better."

OxStem Ocular

OxStem Ocular aims to identify drugs that will stimulate precursor cells within the retina of patients for retinal repair and restoration of vision.

The team is led by world-renowned eye surgeon Prof Robert MacLaren – Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences. Prof MacLaren spoke with enthusiasm at the launch of OxStem Ocular, describing the company's work as "novel and exciting scientific research that will lead to future treatments for blindness".

Dr Carolyn Porter, Deputy Head of Technology Transfer at Oxford University Innovation said "we are delighted to have supported the establishment of OxStem Neuro and Ocular, with expert cofounders from different disciplines, these companies will expand OxStem's reach into two additional disease areas with unmet medical need". These two collaborative projects will be funded within the University over the next three years following OxStem's record £16.9M initial fundraise in May 2016.

Dr Michael Stein, OxStem CEO, commented: "We are thrilled to launch OxStem Neuro and OxStem Ocular as part of our on-going commitment to positively impact society. Thank you to all our world class collaborators, investors and supporters for helping enable us to do this important work."

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