



**ETIOLOGICS APPOINTS DR CHRIS ASHTON, FORMERLY OF ORCHID INC
AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Oxford, UK, 18 November 2002.....Etiologics Ltd, the gene to drug discovery company has appointed Dr Chris Ashton, formerly of Orchid Inc, as Chief Executive Officer.

Dr Ashton has over 17 years commercial and general management experience in the biotechnology industry. He has established a number of early stage companies and gained senior level experience in both UK and US listed companies. He spent the last two years at Orchid (NASDAQ: ORCH) where, as a member of the Executive Management team of Orchid Inc., he was responsible for establishing and driving the subsequent rapid growth of the European operations. During his tenure he negotiated and executed the successful acquisition of Cellmark Diagnostics from AstraZeneca and completed the first major SNP genotyping collaborative deal for Orchid.

Prior to Orchid, Dr Ashton was Commercial Director of Inpharmatica Ltd, a bioinformatics spin out from University College London, UK. In this role he established and oversaw the company's commercial activities and he completed Inpharmatica's first commercial deal with Pfizer – ParkeDavies within six months of joining the company.

Dr Ashton joined Inpharmatica from Oxford GlycoSciences plc (LSE: OGS) where as Business Development Director and Marketing Director he was a key member of the executive management team that led the successful London Stock Exchange floatation and raised over \$40 million. At OGS he was also responsible for initiating and negotiating partnerships with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, establishing scientific collaborations and ensuring the success of the strategic ventures with both Pfizer and Incyte Pharmaceuticals.

Dr Ashton gained extensive sales, marketing and operational experience at OGS and during his seven years at Applied Biosystems Europe which he helped establish after completing his post-

doctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US. Dr Ashton received his BSc in Biochemistry and his PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), UK.

'We are delighted to welcome Chris to the company' commented Professor Steve Brown, Director of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Mammalian Genetics Unit (MGU) and MRC Mouse Genome Centre and co-scientific founder of Etiologics 'He brings a wealth of directly relevant experience, particularly in terms of his ability to rapidly build successful companies and to establish strong, long-term relationships with international pharmaceutical companies. His leadership will enable Etiologics to maximize the benefits which its unique disease modeling capabilities can provide.'

Etiologics helps pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies understand the role that genes play in human health and disease. It provides novel mouse strains which demonstrate the impact of changes to new, unexplored genes and which can be used as disease models to research potential therapies. It has also developed a unique bioinformatics technology which supports the effective management and interpretation of the extensive data sets emerging from such research.

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Notes to Editors

MRC

The Medical Research Council (MRC), established in 1913, aims to improve health by promoting research into all areas of medical and related science. It is funded mainly by the government but is independent in its choice of which research to support. About half of the MRC's expenditure of approximately £412 million is invested in over 50 of its Institutes and Units, where it employs its own research staff. The remaining half goes in the form of grant support and training awards to individuals and teams in universities.

The MGU

Etiologics was established on 7 October 2002 to commercialise research and technology developed by the MRC's world leading HGU at Harwell, Oxford, UK. The MGU is one of the world's leading academic centres for the study of the underlying genetic causes and progression of human disease. It currently receives total annual funding of £4.25 million and employs around 130 staff. The Unit will also benefit from a £23 million, five year investment programme to upgrade and extend the facilities at Harwell.