



**ETIOLOGICS APPOINTS IAN KENT, AN EXPERIENCED LIFE-SCIENCE
ENTREPRENEUR, AS CHAIRMAN**

Oxford, UK, 16 December 2002.....Etiologics Ltd, the gene to drug discovery company, has appointed Ian Kent, a seasoned life sciences entrepreneur with over 30 years sector experience, as Chairman.

Ian Kent, aged 58, has been a founder director of a number of successful bioscience companies including Ardana Bioscience Ltd, Roslin Bio-Med Ltd and Imutran Ltd. During his biotechnology career he has helped raise private funding, enabled venture capitalists to exit problem companies and negotiated a series of deals with major, international pharmaceutical companies.

At present Mr Kent is Chairman of several venture funded start ups including the drug discovery company Ribotargets, which raised £32 million in a private placement in September 2001; the reproductive health business Ardana Bioscience Ltd, which recently acquired Europeptides from Degussa/Zentaris in a €28 million transaction. He also chairs LGC Holdings Ltd, a leader in analytical science; the regenerative medicine specialist, Intercytex; and the biopharmaceutical company Adprotech Ltd. He is Non-Executive Director of BioFocus plc, the AIM listed provider of integrated chemistry and biology services.

Mr Kent was joint founder of Imutran, the world's leading xenotransplantation company and in his capacity as Chairman he spearheaded its sale to Novartis in 1996. He was also founder Chairman of Roslin Bio-Med, which developed human therapeutics based on the nuclear transfer technology used to create Dolly the sheep and which was sold to Geron Inc in May 1999 on terms which were financially attractive to shareholders and politically acceptable to interested Government bodies (BBSRC and MAFF).

In the public sector, Mr Kent sits on the Governing Council of the Roslin Institute, Scotland and between 1998 and 2001 he Chaired the UK Government's Intervention Board which administered the Common Agricultural Policy in the UK. Earlier in his career Mr Kent held senior technical and commercial posts at Dalgety plc, The Boots Company plc and Rank Hovis McDougall Ltd.

Dr Chris Ashton, Chief Executive Officer of Etiologics commented 'I am delighted to welcome Ian to the Etiologics team. His directly relevant experience and an extensive network of contacts will help Etiologics develop rapidly. I am sure his guidance through this important period for the company will prove invaluable as we position ourselves in the marketplace.'

Etiologics helps pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to understand the role which 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.

ENDS

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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 Mammalian Genetics Unit (MGU)

Etiologics was established on 7 October 2002 to commercialise research and technology developed by the MRC's world leading MGU 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.

MRCT

Medical Research Council Technology, MRCT, undertakes technology transfer activities on behalf of the MRC. MRCT helps MRC to translate scientific discoveries into products and technologies with clear health care benefit. Further information can be found at www.mrc technology.org.