

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Aquapharm strengthens board and management team**

**Oban, Scotland - May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008:** Aquapharm Biodiscovery Ltd, a leading marine biotechnology company pioneering the discovery and development of new pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and personal care products from marine microbes, is pleased to announce two new appointments. Mr Douglas Thomson has been appointed as Aquapharm's new Commercial Director and Prof Axel Kleemann has joined the Aquapharm board as Non-executive Director.

Mr Thomson draws on over 20 years of commercial experience in the pharmaceutical industry. He has been active in various business development roles, with experience in the biologics area and also in the field of vaccines, having previously been Director of Business Development at Microscience Ltd (now part of Emergent Biosolutions) as well as his latest role as CEO at SingVax. Mr Thomson has been responsible for business development activities such as deal making and licensing as well as leading fund raising and corporate operations, including having participated in raising over GBP30m of venture financing. Mr Thomson gained valuable experience in the biologics anti-infectives business, extending his proven track record in business development.

Professor Axel Kleemann brings with him many years of experience from his distinguished career in the pharmaceutical industry. He was a member of the Management Board of ASTA Medica AG from 1987 until 2000 with responsibility for research & development, production, engineering and drug safety. He obtained his PhD in chemistry at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main and has been an Honorary Professor of Chemistry there since 1987. Professor Kleemann is co-author of the standard reference book *Pharmaceutical Substances*. As well as being a board member in various organisations and scientific societies in Germany, Dr Kleemann is also chairman of the Board of Directors of Protagen AG and a member of the Board of Directors of several other non-listed and listed biotech and fine chemical companies.

Dr Andrew Mearns-Spragg, CEO and Founder of Aquapharm said "*I am extremely pleased with these two appointments and both will greatly contribute to the future growth of Aquapharm. Douglas' formidable track record in commercial development and expertise in anti-infectives will be key to our commercial development. Equally, we are all delighted to welcome Axel onto the board, where his depth of business and industry experience will be invaluable to Aquapharm in driving its commercial strategy.*"

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Thomson said "*With an extensive library of microbial organisms and a developing pipeline, I look forward to helping Aquapharm establish strategic collaborations and licensing deals that will deliver on the promise that microbial products offer for use as anti-infectives and as other agents.*"

Commenting on his appointment, Prof. Kleemann added "*I am pleased to be joining Aquapharm with its highly motivated and engaged team. Aquapharm's technology has numerous potential applications but I hope to add significant value through my experience and network in the development of anti-infectives.*"

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Aquapharm Biodiscovery Ltd.**

Aquapharm is a leading marine biotechnology company, founded in 2000 to develop new biologically active products from the untapped biological potential of marine microbes. The company has a substantial collection of marine bacteria and fungi obtained from samples collected from diverse marine habitats, including the arctic and the deep sea. Aquapharm's patented technology base has the ability to manipulate marine microbial communities to stimulate the development and production of new molecules with the potential for commercial applications in a variety of industries.

The company's primary focus is around the development of novel anti-infective agents and anti-inflammatories for the pharmaceutical industry. Aquapharm develops innovative anti-infective compounds targeting both Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria responsible for multi-drug infectious diseases such as *Acetibacter baumannii*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and MRSA. The company's lead compound, P-216CM is in pre-clinical development for gram-positive indications.

The company's proprietary library also has applications in the development of carotenoids for the nutraceutical and personal care industries as well as biocatalysis agents for industrial applications.

Aquapharm is based in Oban on the coast of Scotland and has a staff of 17.

More information about Aquapharm can be found at [www.aquapharm.co.uk](http://www.aquapharm.co.uk)

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