



PRESS RELEASE

Newron Pharmaceuticals Completes Management Team with Appointment of Chief Financial Officer and Chief Medical Officer

Milan, Italy – 4 May 2005 – Newron Pharmaceuticals SpA, a research and development company focused on novel CNS therapies, announced today that the company has completed its senior management team with the appointment of Stefan Weber as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Ravi Anand, MD, as Chief Medical Officer.

“Stefan and Ravi join Newron with extensive experience and expertise from the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. With these appointments, Newron’s senior management team has been enriched with two professionals who will add considerable value to the company as it moves forward,” commented Dr Luca Benatti, CEO of Newron.

Stefan Weber joins Newron with more than 18 years experience in finance. His track record includes multiple, substantial financing transactions, including equity, debt and mezzanine, as well as M&A, divestments and strategic restructuring. Most recently, Mr Weber was CFO of the drug discovery and development company Biofrontera AG. Prior to this role, he was CFO at Girindus AG where he also managed the company’s IPO to the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and post-IPO investor relations. Mr Weber started his career in various positions with the Lohmann Group, a worldwide producer of pharmaceutical, medical, technical and consumer products, culminating in the role of Head of Finance.

For over 20 years, Dr Anand has been integrally involved in all aspects of drug discovery, development and commercialization, with a particular focus on CNS disorders. He has been involved in several international New Drug Applications (NDAs), overseen clinical trials in over 30 countries. He submitted more than 30 Investigational New Drug Application (INDs) and has had extensive interactions with health authorities worldwide. Most recently, Dr Anand has been an independent consultant to the global pharmaceutical industry. His tenure in the pharmaceutical industry has included senior research positions at major international companies, including Hoffman La Roche in Switzerland, US operations of Sandoz/Novartis and Organon in the Netherlands. In particular he served as the International Head of CNS Medical Affairs at Novartis and as global Head of CNS Clinical Research at Organon.

About Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A.

Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A (<http://www.newron.com>) is a research and development company focused on novel ion channel based therapies for diseases of the central nervous system (CNS), particularly Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy and pain. Newron has initiated Phase III trials with Safinamide, a unique molecule with multiple mechanisms of action, for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease. Phase II trials with Safinamide in epilepsy and restless leg syndrome (RLS) have shown positive preliminary results. Newron is furthermore conducting Phase II trials with Ralfinamide, a potent sodium channel blocker, for the treatment of neuropathic pain. Newron’s clinical pipeline is supported by a broad

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portfolio of early stage proprietary compounds generated by its ion channel drug discovery platform. Newron is headquartered in Bresso, near Milan, Italy.

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