Neurocrine Biosciences Head Of Research Receives Prestigious Neuroscience Honor

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SAN DIEGO, Dec. 17 /PRNewswire/ -- Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: NBIX) today announced that Errol B. De Souza, Ph.D, co-founder and executive vice president of research and development of Neurocrine Biosciences, has been named the 1997 winner of the prestigious Daniel H. Efron Award by the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP). The Efron Award is presented by the ACNP to an individual on the basis of outstanding basic research contributions to neuropyschopharmacology.

In the nomination for the award, which was presented by Dr. Benjamin Bunney, M.D. of Yale University of Medicine, it was noted that Dr. De Souza was nominated for the characterization of corticotrophin releasing factor (CRF) and for his involvement in the identification and cloning of its receptors for potential clinical indications. The nomination recognized Dr. De Souza as a major force in fundamental studies of stress and peptide biology, which has expanded our appreciation of the important aspects of CRF as a novel therapeutic target for neuropsychopharmacologic therapeutics for the treatment of disorders such as anxiety, depression, Alzheimer's disease, and obesity.

CRF functions as a neurotransmitter in the brain and plays a critical role in coordinating psychological and behavioral responses to stress. Under Dr. De Souza's leadership, Neurocrine's scientists have developed small molecule CRF receptor antagonists which block the effects of overproduction of CRF which is believed to be implicated in diseases such as anxiety and depression. Recently, Neurocrine and its partner Janssen Pharmaceutica, N.V. initiated Phase I clinical trials to evaluate the safety of the first CRF receptor antagonist from the collaboration for anxiety and depression.

Neurocrine is also developing molecules that modulate CRF in collaboration with pharmaceutical partner Eli Lilly & Co. These molecules are being designed to block CRF's interaction with CRF-Binding Proteins for the treatment of disorders associated with low levels of CRF such as Alzheimer's disease and obesity.

Dr. De Souza has also been the recipient of other neuroscience awards such as the Curt Richter Award from the International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology, the Jordi-Folch-Pi Memorial Award from the American Society for Neurochemistry and the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award from the Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence.

Neurocrine Biosciences is a leading neuroimmunology company focused on the discovery and development of novel therapeutics to treat diseases and disorders of the central nervous and immune system such as anxiety, depression, Alzheimer's disease, obesity and multiple sclerosis.

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The statements in this press, release that relate to the continued profitability of the Company, the continued funding and progress of Neurocrine's programs, the continuation of strategic partnerships, the expected date for the entry into clinical trials of the Company's development candidates, and the potential development of commercial products are forward looking statements. Such forward looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, including, without limitation, that research funding and development will continue under Neurocrine's strategic partnerships in a timely manner consistent with Neurocrine's objectives, that research and development candidates will successfully proceed through pre-clinical and early stage clinical trials, that development candidates will prove effective for treatment in humans in later stage clinical trials, the timely receipt of regulatory clearances required for clinical testing, manufacturing and marketing of products, the potential impact of competitive technologies and potential products, and the other risks and uncertainties outlined in the Company's form 10-K constituting a part thereof for the year ending December 3l, 1996. Actual results and the timing of certain events could differ materially from those indicated in the forward looking statements as a result of these and other factors.

SOURCE Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.

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