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### PHARMAXIS STRENGTHENS DRUG DISCOVERY CAPABILITY AS ITS TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM CONTINUES TO DELIVER

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- Head of Chemistry (ex Boehringer Ingelheim) recruited to Drug Discovery leadership team
- Two leading scientists join Scientific Advisory Board
- Amine Oxidase chemistry platform delivers five lead candidates in fibrosis and inflammation over four years as Pharmaxis states ambition to expand its drug discovery activities into new technologies and take select programs into phase 2 clinical trials.

Pharmaceutical research company Pharmaxis (ASX: PXS) today announced several key appointments to further strengthen its capability in drug discovery and development.

Following a global search Dr Dieter Hamprecht has been appointed as the Head of Chemistry in the Pharmaxis Drug Discovery team reporting to Department Head Dr Wolfgang Jarolimek. Dr Hamprecht was previously the Managing Director of Boehringer Ingelheim's research group in Milan. He has a distinguished career as a medicinal chemist having held senior positions at GSK and Boehringer with 37 publications and 44 patents to his name.

Pharmaxis CEO Gary Phillips said, "Dieter's appointment comes at a critical juncture in the evolution of Pharmaxis. He has extensive experience in small molecules and peptides after 20 years working in multinational pharma company research groups and managing internal programs and assessing external opportunities as part of Boehringer's scientific diligence teams. I am confident that Dieter will reinforce the strength and depth of our drug discovery team with his wealth of experience and proven leadership skills."

In addition, Pharmaxis has appointed two new members to its Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Professor Darren Kelly, PhD, MSc

Professor Kelly is the Associate Dean (Innovation and Enterprise, MDHS) at The University of Melbourne, the Director of Innovation and Enterprise at the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) and Director of Biomedical Research in the Department of Medicine, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. He was CEO of Fibrotech Ltd which was successfully sold to Shire in 2014 and is now the CEO and Managing Director of Australian biotech company OccuRx. He is the entrepreneur in residence at the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund. He has published over 200 manuscripts in the field of translational research and novel interventions many of which have had a direct impact on human disease.

Dr Kathleen Metters, PhD, MS

Dr Metters has more than 25 years of experience in the discovery and development of novel therapies for the treatment of serious diseases. She spent 9 years with Merck & Co. including a period as senior vice president and head of Worldwide Basic Research and leading their External Discovery and Preclinical Sciences. She was subsequently appointed President and Chief Executive Officer for Lycera Corp., a biopharmaceutical company pioneering innovative approaches to novel oral medicines for treatment of autoimmune diseases and cancer. She was appointed as a non-executive director to the Pharmaxis Board in June 2017.

Professor Kelly and Dr Metters will join previously appointed members of the [Pharmaxis SAB](#), Professor Andrew Boyle, Professor Jacob George, Professor Carol Pollock and Dr Alan Robertson.

Mr Phillips said, "I am delighted that Pharmaxis has been able to attract high calibre employees and scientific advisors. The Drug Discovery team has exceeded industry benchmarks in generating five lead candidates from our amine oxidase chemistry platform in the last four years. The SSAO inhibitor PXS-4728A acquired by Boehringer is in two phase 2 trials, two LOXL2 inhibitor candidates are about to enter phase 1 trials whilst a drug inhibiting both myeloperoxidase and SSAO and one inhibiting lysyl oxidases are in the final stages of pre-candidate profiling before commencing pre-clinical development with the aim to start phase 1 trials 2018. The SAB has been instrumental in assessing existing programs and reviewing the potential disease indications. Professor Kelly and Dr Metters strengthen an already distinguished group of scientists and we will look to them for support as we expand our early stage drug discovery programs beyond amine oxidase inhibitors and take selected existing programs through to phase 2 clinical trials in diseases with high unmet need.

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#### **About Pharmaxis**

Pharmaxis (ACN 082 811 630) is an Australian pharmaceutical research company focused on inflammation and fibrosis with a portfolio of products at various stages of development and approval. Its product Bronchitol® for cystic fibrosis is marketed in Europe, Russia and Australia. Its product Aridol® for the assessment of asthma is sold in Europe, Australia and Asia. The company's development pipeline is centred on its expertise in amine oxidase chemistry and includes a series of Lysyl Oxidase Inhibitors that will enter clinical development in 2017 targeting fibrotic diseases of the heart, kidney, liver and lung. In May 2015, Boehringer Ingelheim acquired the Pharmaxis investigational drug PXS-4728A, a potent inhibitor of Semicarbazide-Sensitive Amine Oxidase (SSAO), and is developing it for the treatment of the liver-related condition Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) and diabetic retinopathy. Pharmaxis is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (symbol PXS). The company's head office, manufacturing and research facilities are located in Sydney, Australia. For more information about Pharmaxis, please see [www.pharmaxis.com.au](http://www.pharmaxis.com.au)

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

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