



PHARMACEUTICALS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Scion Pharmaceuticals Announces the Appointment of Dr. Barry A. Berkowitz as President and Chief Executive Officer**

**Medford, MA, January 14, 2005** – Scion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced today that it has named Dr. Barry A. Berkowitz to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Berkowitz has been a highly successful drug discovery and development executive and entrepreneur in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. He joins Scion from Albany Molecular Research, Inc., where he served as Corporate Vice President. Dr. Berkowitz succeeds Dr. Pravin Chaturvedi, who will remain as a consultant to the company.

“Dr. Berkowitz brings to Scion an outstanding record in leading drug discovery and development organizations,” said Mark Carthy, Scion’s Chairman of the Board and General Partner of Oxford Bioscience Partners. “In addition, his ability to negotiate long-term strategic alliances and to structure mergers and acquisitions will be invaluable as Scion enters the next stage of its growth and accomplishment. I look forward to his executive leadership as Scion’s drug candidates continue to advance from discovery into clinical trials and commercialization. I would also like to thank Dr. Chaturvedi for his significant contributions to Scion, and I am pleased that he will continue on as an advisor to the company.”

“Scion has made significant progress in moving its selective ion channel focused compounds into development and the company’s efforts are yielding clinical candidates,” commented Dr. Berkowitz. “This has been enabled by Scion’s experienced staff and an ion channel discovery platform that is fully integrated into drug discovery and development. I am particularly impressed by the company’s proprietary high through-put electrophysiology (HTEP™) functional assays, which increase the efficiency of target validation and drug discovery. The company is now well positioned to form key partnerships with other pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and to advance its CNS, cardiovascular and overactive bladder research and development programs.”

Before joining Scion, Dr. Berkowitz founded and built New Chemical Entities, Inc. (NCE), which he sold to Albany Molecular Research, Inc. (AMRI) in 2001. Prior to NCE, Dr. Berkowitz was the founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of ChemGenics Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (formerly Myco Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), which was acquired by Millennium Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ: MLNM) in 1997. Before that, he co-founded Magainin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (formerly Magainin Sciences, Inc. and currently known as Genaera Corporation NASDAQ: GENR). Additionally, Dr. Berkowitz has held executive research and development positions at SmithKline & French (now GlaxoSmithKline) and senior research positions at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology.

Dr. Berkowitz has more than 100 scientific publications and is a co-inventor on a number of U.S. patents. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Northeastern University in Pharmacy and received his Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of California, San Francisco.

#### About Scion

Scion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. discovers and develops small molecule drugs that selectively regulate ion channels, a well-established class of pharmaceutical targets with potential application for a wide range of major diseases. Scion's lead program, which is focused on the treatment of pain, is now advancing toward clinical development. Earlier-stage discovery programs are focused on overactive bladder and atrial fibrillation.

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