



News release, 8 March 2021

Ankrin Therapeutics appoints Jim Van heusden as Chairman of the Board.

Copenhagen, Denmark, 8 March 2021 – Ankrin Therapeutics ApS, a new DNA Damage Response (DDR) biotech company based on novel biological targets in homologous recombination in cancer cells, today announced the appointment of Jim Van heusden as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Jim Van heusden, who is based in Belgium, is managing director of bioskills since 2013 and has more than 25 years of experience as investor, board executive and operational manager within the pharmaceutical and biotech sector. He currently serves as Executive Chairman for Rewind Therapeutics.

Before, Jim was Executive Chairman of Black Belt Therapeutics and CEO of Karolinska Development, a publicly listed Nordic life science investment fund. Jim also has extensive venture capital experience and was Partner focusing on life science investments at the Belgian investment company Gimv from 2001 to 2013.

Former board representations include e.g. Ablynx (acquired by Sanofi), Multiplicom (acquired by Agilent Technologies), Plexikon (acquired by Daiichi Sankyo), and Prosensa (acquired by BioMarin).

Prior to joining Gimv, he was working as a senior scientist at the department of Oncology at Janssen Pharmaceutica, a Johnson & Johnson company. Jim holds a M.Sc. degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry from the University of Antwerp (Belgium) and a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Maastricht (The Netherlands).

Ulrik Sørensen, CEO and Board member, comments:

“We are very pleased that Jim has accepted to join Ankrin as Chairman of our Board. The management team is looking forward to working with him to advance the company. Jim will bring to Ankrin substantial business expertise and will team up with management to refine our strategy and develop the potential of the strong science on which the company is founded, into future clinical assets within precision oncology.”

Jim Van heusden, Chairman of Ankrin Therapeutics, comments:

“I’m excited to join Ankrin Therapeutics. I look forward to working closely with the Ankrin team and the rest of the Board to translate the deep scientific insights in novel homologous recombination repair targets into *first-in-class* targeted therapies for cancer patients.”

Jim Van heusden replaces Ulrik Sørensen as Chairman, who will continue as Board Member.

As a further change to the Board, Trine Bartholdy from BioInnovation Institute (BII), will join the Board as an observer. Trine is a Portfolio Manager with BII, a Copenhagen based Life Science Incubator. Prior to joining BII, Trine held Director positions in Venture Capital working at the Danish Growth Fund and Sunstone Capital Life Science Ventures. Here she worked with a broad range of early-stage companies and indication areas, including oncology, and served on various Boards. Furthermore, she spent 6 years with Novo Nordisk, New Product Planning, carrying out strategic assessment of early stage development portfolio.

Trine comments: “Having Jim Van heusden in as Chairman in Ankrin is a great achievement. Building a strong and international team is one of the cornerstones for BII to ensure growth acceleration of early stage companies, and I’m certain that having Jim on board will ensure strong progress to Ankrin’s unique DNA Damage Repair platform.”

For additional information please contact:

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About Ankrin Therapeutics

Ankrin Therapeutics ApS is a Danish biotech company founded in 2018 and based in Copenhagen. Ankrin develops first-in-class compounds for personalized cancer treatment. The company exploits novel biological targets to inhibit DNA repair by homologous recombination and is based on strong science and cutting-edge DNA repair discoveries by CSO and scientific co-founder Prof. Anja Groth, University of Copenhagen. Ankrin Therapeutics is funded by BioInnovation Institute (BII), Danish Growth Fund (Vækstfonden) and Innovation Fund Denmark.