

Neuren Pharmaceuticals Limited

Corporate Governance Statement (extract from Annual Report 2009)

The Directors have adopted practices and procedures for the good corporate governance of the Company. These practices and procedures establish the framework of how the Directors carry out their duties and discharge their obligations.

The Company has adopted appropriate policies and practices as provided by the ASX Listing Rules and the Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations issued by the ASX Corporate Governance Council ("Council") in March 2003 and revised in August 2007 (2nd edition) which are as follows:

Principle 1.	Lay solid foundations for management and oversight
Principle 2.	Structure the Board to add value
Principle 3.	Promote ethical and responsible decision-making
Principle 4.	Safeguard integrity in financial reporting
Principle 5.	Make timely and balanced disclosure
Principle 6.	Respect the rights of shareholders
Principle 7.	Recognise and manage risk
Principle 8.	Remunerate fairly and responsibly

Neuren's corporate governance practices were fully compliant with the Council's August 2007 best practice recommendations apart from the following recommendations:

Recommendation 2.2: The chair should be an independent director

Dr Congreve is the Chairman of the Board, and was elected as such by the shareholders of the Company. As noted below, Dr Congreve is not "independent" however in accordance with Council's recommendations, Dr Scott, Chairman of the Remuneration and Audit Committee, acts as lead independent director.

Recommendation 2.4: The Board should establish a nomination committee

The Board has previously considered establishing a Nomination Committee, however due to the small number of Directors the Board considers it more efficient for the selection and appointment of Directors to be considered by the Board itself. It is the Board's policy to determine the terms and conditions relating to the appointment and retirement of non-executive Directors on a case by case basis and in conformity with the requirements of the Listing Rules. The Board may also engage an external consultant where appropriate to identify and assess suitable candidates who meet the Board's specifications.

Role of the Board

The Board is responsible for the overall corporate governance of the Company. The Board acts on behalf of and is accountable to the shareholders. The Board seeks to identify the expectations of shareholders as well as other regulatory and ethical expectations and obligations. The Board is responsible for identifying areas of significant business risk and ensuring mechanisms are in place to manage those risks adequately. In addition, the Board sets the overall strategic goals and objectives, and monitors achievement of goals.

The Board appoints the Chief Executive Officer and the responsibility for the operation and administration of the Company has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and senior management. The Board ensures this team is appropriately qualified to discharge their responsibilities and reviews the performance of the Chief Executive Officer annually against agreed objectives. This performance review was conducted in 2009 and early 2010. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for reviewing annually the performance of senior management.

The Board ensures management's objectives and activities are aligned with the expectations and risks identified by the Board through a number of mechanisms including the following:

- establishment of the overall strategic direction and leadership of the Company;
- approving and monitoring the implementation by management of the Company's strategic plan to achieve those objectives;
- reviewing performance against its stated objectives, by receiving regular management reports on business situation, opportunities and risks;
- monitoring and review of the Company's controls and systems including those concerned with regulatory matters to ensure statutory compliance and the highest ethical standards; and
- review and adoption of the annual budget and monitoring the results against stated targets.

The Board reviews its corporate strategy and financial targets in terms of shareholder expectations, performance and potential in the interests of creating long-term value for shareholders.

The Board considers corporate governance to be an important element of its responsibilities. It meets regularly throughout the year.

Board Composition

The Company must have between 3 and 9 Directors. The independence and tenure of each Director at the date of this report is as follows:

Director	Position	Independence	Term in Office
Dr Robin Congreve	Chairman – Non-executive director	Non-independent	8
Mr Tom Amos (until 27 March 2009)	Non-executive director	Independent	4
Dr John Holaday (from 25 November 2009)	Non-executive director	Independent	-
Dr Graeme Howie	Non-executive director	Independent	5
Dr Trevor Scott	Non-executive director	Independent	7
Dr Doug Wilson	Chief Medical Officer – Executive director	Non-independent	6

The composition of the Board, its performance, and the independence of Directors are regularly reviewed by the Chairman and lead independent director, Dr Scott, to ensure that the Board has the appropriate mix of independence, expertise and experience. Dr Holaday, Dr Howie and Dr Scott are independent Directors. The Board has previously considered establishing a Nomination Committee, however due to the small number of Directors the Board considers it more efficient for the selection and appointment of Directors to be considered by the Board itself.

It is the Board's policy to determine the terms and conditions relating to the appointment and retirement of non-executive Directors on a case by case basis and in conformity with the requirements of the Listing Rules. The Board may also engage an external consultant where appropriate to identify and assess suitable candidates who meet the Board's specifications.

The relevant skills, experience and expertise of each Board member are set out in the Directors' Report.

For the purposes of the proper performance of their duties, Directors are entitled to seek independent professional advice at the Company's expense on prior approval of the Chairman.

Board Committees

It is the Board's policy that the various Committees it has established should:

- be entitled to obtain such resources and information from the Company including direct access to employees of and advisers to the Company as it may require; and
- operate in accordance with the terms of reference established by the Board.

Remuneration and Audit Committee

The Remuneration and Audit Committee must have a minimum of 2 non-executive directors. Currently the Committee members are Dr Scott (Chair) and Dr Congreve. The Board is considering the structure of the Remuneration and Audit Committee following the resignation of Mr Amos on 27 March 2009. The Committee operates under terms of reference approved by the Board. It is responsible for undertaking a broad review of, ensuring compliance with, and making recommendations in respect of, the Company's internal financial controls, legal compliance obligations and remuneration policies. It is also responsible for:

- review of audit assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls over the Company's accounting and financial reporting systems, including controls over computerised systems;
- review of the audit plans and recommendations of the external auditors;
- evaluating the extent to which the planned scope of the audit can be relied upon to detect weaknesses in internal control, fraud and other illegal acts;
- review of the results of audits, any changes in accounting practices or policies and subsequent effects on the financial statements and make recommendations to management where necessary and appropriate;
- review of the performance and fees of the external auditor;
- audit of legal compliance including trade practices, corporations law, occupational health and safety and environmental statutory compliance, and compliance with the Listing Rules of the ASX;
- supervision of special investigations when requested by the Board;
- setting and reviewing compensation policies and practices of the Company;
- setting and reviewing remuneration of the Directors, Chief Executive Officer and members of the executive team; and
- setting and reviewing the Company's equity plans for employees and/or Directors.

All members of the Committee meet at least twice during the year. In undertaking these tasks the Remuneration and Audit Committee meets separately with management and external auditors where required. The Committee also seeks assurances from the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer in respect of the accuracy and compliance of the Company's annual and half-year financial statements and effectiveness of the Company's management of its material business risks.

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Ethical Standards and Share Trading

The Company recognises the need for Directors and employees to observe the highest standards of behaviour and business ethics when engaging in corporate activity or share trading.

The Constitution permits Directors to acquire shares in the Company. The Company's share trading policy prohibits Directors, executives and employees from acquiring or disposing of securities unless this occurs during a 42 day period commencing 24 hours after the announcement to the ASX of the quarterly, half-yearly and annual results and/or after the conclusion of the Company's Annual General Meeting and provided that the person is not in possession of price sensitive information and the trading is not for short-term or speculative gain. Other trading may only occur with Board approval.

Continuous Disclosure

As a listed company, Neuren is required to comply with the continuous disclosure requirements as set out in the ASX Listing Rules. The Company discloses to the ASX any information concerning the Company which a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of securities of the Company, unless certain exemptions from the obligation to disclose apply.

All relevant information provided to the ASX is also posted onto the Company's corporate website www.neurenpharma.com, in compliance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the Listing Rules.

Rights of Shareholders

The Board strives to communicate regularly and clearly with shareholders, the principal methods being through the Company's annual and half-year reports, and Company announcements posted on the Company's website. Shareholders are encouraged to attend and participate at general meetings, which the Auditors are also invited to attend.

Identification and Management of Significant Business Risk

The Board has identified the significant areas of potential business and legal risk for the Company.

The identification, monitoring and, where appropriate, the reduction of significant risk to the Company are monitored by the Board. The Board reviews and monitors the parameters under which such risks will be managed.

The Board has identified the Company's activities in conducting clinical trials on humans as a significant area of risk. The Board has established the Clinical Development and Ethics Committee to assist the Board in discharging its responsibilities regarding this specific area of risk including ensuring:

- risk management strategies are in place (such as insurance) and that variances in such strategies are reported;
- staff involved in this area are sufficiently experienced and skilled;
- appropriate procedures are in place for the selection and remuneration of external contractors;
- compliance with regulatory obligations including manufacturing, testing, analysis and FDA/Med Safe and Ethics.

Similar risk management procedures are adopted for other areas of identified risk.

The Remuneration and Audit Committee also assists the Board in its monitoring of financial and operational risk.

Both Committees ensure adequate and timely reporting of their findings and activities to the Board.

Remuneration

Neuren believes having highly skilled and motivated people will allow the organisation to best pursue its mission and achieve its goals for the benefit of shareholders and stakeholders more broadly. The ability to attract and retain the best people is critical to the Company's future success. The Board believes remuneration policies are a key part of ensuring this success.

The Remuneration and Audit Committee of the Board is responsible for determining and reviewing compensation arrangements for the Directors, Chief Executive Officers and members of the executive team. The Committee assesses the appropriateness of the nature and amount of emoluments on a periodic basis by reference to relevant employment market conditions, with the overall objective of ensuring maximum stakeholder benefit from the retention of a high quality Board and executive team. To assist in achieving these objectives, the Remuneration and Audit Committee links the nature and amount of executive Directors' and Officers' emoluments to the Company's performance.

Remuneration of Executives comprises base salary and an "at-risk" (bonus) component, the payment of which is dependent upon individual, team and Company performance relative to specific targets. Executive performance and remuneration is reviewed formally each year.

Long-term incentive arrangements have been provided by participation in a share option plan to ensure key employees maintain a long-term interest in the growth and value of the Company.

Non-executive Director fees are determined by the Board within the aggregate limit for Directors' fees approved by shareholders. The current remuneration level for the Chair is \$60,000 and for non-executive Directors is \$25,000 per year with an additional \$10,000 for committee membership and \$5,000 for committee Chairs. Executive Directors do not receive Directors fees. Directors and Executives receive no retirement allowances. New Zealand Companies Act disclosures with regard to Directors' Fees and Executives' remuneration are set out in the Directors' Report.