

# Neuren Rett Syndrome Trial to be Supported by International Rett Syndrome Foundation Grant

**SYDNEY, Australia, 6 July 2012**: Neuren Pharmaceuticals Limited (ASX:NEU) has previously announced a planned Phase II clinical trial of NNZ-2566 in patients with Rett Syndrome. We are now pleased to advise that this trial will be supported by a grant from the International Rett Syndrome Foundation. The US\$600,000 grant will be awarded to Drs Daniel Glaze and Jeffrey Neul from the Blue Bird Circle Rett Center at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine who will be the lead investigators on the trial. The award was announced by the IRSF following a board of trustees meeting at the World Rett Syndrome Congress in New Orleans. The IRSF announcement can be found at the website address rettsyndrome.org/content/view/852/1151.

#### **About Rett Syndrome**

Rett Syndrome is a post-natal neurological disorder which occurs almost exclusively in females following apparently normal development for the first six months of life. Typically, between 6 to 18 months of age, patients experience a period of rapid decline with loss of purposeful hand use and spoken communication. Many patients have recurrent seizures. They experience a variety of motor problems including increased muscle tone (spasticity) and abnormal movements. They are never able to provide for their own needs. It is a rare disorder and is believed to be second only to Down Syndrome as a cause of chronic neurological problems that include severe communication, motor disabilities and epilepsy. Rett Syndrome is caused by mutations on the X chromosome of a gene called MECP2. There are more than 200 different mutations found on the MECP2 gene. Rett Syndrome strikes all racial and ethnic groups, and occurs worldwide in up to 1 of every 10,000 female births and affects some 15,000 girls and women in the U.S. alone.

### About the International Rett Syndrome Foundation

The International Rett Syndrome Foundation (IRSF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established in July 2007 through the strategic merger of the Rett Syndrome Research Foundation and the International Rett Syndrome Association. The core mission of the IRSF is to fund research for treatments and a cure for Rett Syndrome while enhancing the overall quality of life for those living with Rett Syndrome by providing information, programs, and services. IRSF is the largest private source of funds for biomedical and clinical research on Rett Syndrome. IRSF believes the fastest way to a cure and treatments includes making significant and strategic investments in research while bolstering family support, public awareness, and advocacy programs. The goal of IRSF is to not only fund the highest quality research, but also to focus on projects that will accelerate the speed with which basic science discoveries are translated into clinical application for patients with Rett Syndrome.

### About the Blue Bird Circle Rett Center at Texas Children's Hospital

The Blue Bird Circle Rett Center at Baylor College of Medicine is a multidisciplinary team of health professionals and involved in three major activities: care-giving, education, and research. The Rett Center at

BCM is one of the largest Rett Centers in the United States and one of the few centers that specializes in the diagnosis and care of children and adults with Rett Syndrome. Since its founding in 1985, the Center has cared for more than 800 patients and is running the Rett Syndrome Natural History Study, an NIH-funded effort and the largest study of Rett Syndrome patients ever undertaken.

## **About Neuren**

Neuren Pharmaceuticals is a biopharmaceutical company developing new therapies for brain injury, neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders and cancer. Neuren presently has two clinical-stage molecules, NNZ-2566 and Motiva®, in Phase 2 clinical trials largely funded by the US Army and the National Health and Medical Research Council, respectively. Through its subsidiary, Perseis Therapeutics Limited, Neuren is developing monoclonal antibodies against Trefoil Factors 1 and 3, proteins produced by cancer cells that are associated with cancer spread and reduced patient survival.

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