



## **Mike Romanos Appointed as CSO of Crescendo Biologics**

Cambridge, UK. 12 October 2009 - Mike Romanos has been appointed Chief Scientific Officer of Crescendo Biologics ("Crescendo") and joins the Board as a Director. Dr Romanos will take leadership of the company and its proprietary antibody fragment technologies following a £4.5 million seed fundraising round led by Sofinnova Partners (see separate announcement).

Dr Romanos has more than 23 years biotech and pharma industry experience and within the last 10 years has held senior global positions leading major parts of GlaxoSmithKline Discovery. In his most recent role as VP, Discovery Technology, at GSK, he had global responsibility for genomic and cellular platforms, and a central involvement in target and biomarker selection across all of GSK's therapeutic areas. Prior to that, as VP, Gene Expression and Protein Biochemistry, he had global responsibility for the generation of biologicals to support all of GSK's Discovery activities, for use in screening, structural biology and as biopharmaceuticals. During this phase he established GSK's advanced antibody lead discovery capability which was critical to generating the pipeline of in-house monoclonal antibodies.

"I am excited to be taking this role at Crescendo," said Mike Romanos. "This new company has the components to build class-leading platforms in the field of next generation antibody therapeutics. With the funding in place, we are well-placed to develop our technology platforms and then, drawing on our insights in therapeutic target opportunities, begin applying them to in-house projects and future partnership programmes."

"Mike's appointment is great news for Crescendo," said Graziano Seghezzi of Sofinnova Partners. "Not only does he bring a wealth of drug discovery and scientific knowledge, but he also has a rare combination of strong managerial ability and entrepreneurial enthusiasm."

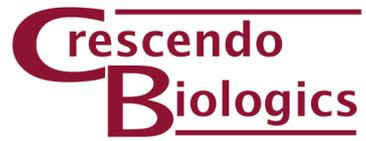
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### **About Crescendo Biologics Ltd**

Crescendo Biologics will apply highly innovative antibody fragment technologies to the development of new targeted therapeutics. The Crescendo transgenic mouse platform under development has the potential to rapidly and predictably generate high-affinity human heavy chain antibodies that readily yield V<sub>H</sub> fragments that have no requirement for humanisation. This is combined with a powerful *in vitro* ribosome display technology which offers significant



advantages over existing approaches in antibody optimisation.  $V_H$  fragments provide great flexibility as a starting point for the development of new targeted therapeutics combining the specificity and binding affinity of antibodies with certain desirable characteristics of small molecules.

Crescendo's technologies were invented by scientists at the Babraham Institute, Cambridge (UK). The Company has raised £4.5 million in seed funding from leading life sciences investors, Sofinnova Partners with Aitua, Avlar BioVentures and the Rainbow Seed Fund also participating. [www.crescendobiologics.com](http://www.crescendobiologics.com)