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**Cellestia Biotech AG extends Management Team and Scientific Advisory Board:**

**Gaudenz von Capeller has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer of Cellestia and Professor Douglas Hanahan, Director of the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC), has been appointed as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board.**

Basel, Switzerland – June 15, 2017 – Cellestia Biotech AG is a privately owned pharmaceutical company with strategic focus on targeted small molecule anti-cancer drugs modulating the NOTCH pathway by a novel mode of action. Cellestia has developed a discovery platform for compounds targeting the NOTCH signalling pathway to inhibit the transcription of target genes in tumors driven by over-activation of this pathway. The most advanced program, CB-103, is a novel, first in class, oral pan-NOTCH inhibitor for treatment of NOTCH dependent leukemia, lymphoma and solid tumors. The NOTCH signaling pathway plays a central role in cell differentiation, growth and cancer stem cell maintenance and is a well-established, clinically validated target. CB-103 has achieved proof of concept in various animal models and in blood samples from leukemia patients. Preclinical studies with the lead compound CB-103 demonstrated promising efficacy and the safety profile is well understood.

Cellestia announced today two key appointments to strengthen the Executive Management Team (EMT) and the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB):

Gaudenz von Capeller will join Cellestia as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. He is a very experienced manager with longstanding successful track record as CFO in various industries, spanning from banking, software, pharma contract manufacture and biotech/biopharma companies.

Michael Bauer, CEO of Cellestia stated: “Gaudenz will add finance expertise to our EMT. His experience and network will be important during the next financing activities, as well as managing the growth phase of Cellestia reaching clinical development and broadening our pipeline at the same time”.

“This is an exciting time for Cellestia” Gaudenz von Capeller noted. “I am looking forward to joining the leadership team and contribute to a successful implementation of the company’s growth strategy.”

Professor Douglas Hanahan, Director of the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC) in the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), and Vice-Director of the Swiss Cancer Center, has joined Cellestia’s SAB as Chairman in June. In this role, Professor Hanahan will provide scientific expertise and strategic guidance to the company, building its clinical program and development pipeline.

Prof. Douglas Hanahan said: “I look forward to support Cellestia in its development of this uniquely new mechanistic class of NOTCH signaling inhibitors, which holds exciting promise for therapeutic targeting of this instrumental pathway in cancer pathogenesis”.

Michael Bauer, CEO of Cellestia concluded: “We are delighted that Professor Hanahan, a leading expert and key opinion leader in oncology, has agreed to join our endeavors targeting NOTCH-dependent cancers as Chairman of our SAB. This happens at a time where our lead compound CB-103 is reaching clinical development and pre-clinical programs are about to expand.”

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## About Cellestia Biotech AG

*Cellestia was founded in 2014 as a spin-off from Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, EPFL. The lead development compound of Cellestia is CB-103, a novel, first-in-class oral pan-NOTCH inhibitor indicated for treatment of patients with NOTCH-dependent leukemia, lymphoma and solid tumors. Cellestia holds a worldwide exclusive license on the intellectual property rights for CB-103 and related series of close analogues, for development and commercialization.*

## About ISREC/EPFL

*ISREC is integrated into the School of Life Sciences at EPFL, with the Global Health Institute. Its faculty continues to investigate a spectrum of fundamental biological systems that are variously co-opted or disrupted during the development of cancer. Prominent amongst the research topics are signalling pathways that normally regulate aspects of embryogenesis and organogenesis, and mechanisms orchestrating the cell division cycle and the maintenance of genomic integrity during cell proliferation.*

*ISREC will establish a bridge-building 'translational' oncology branch at the University of Lausanne's medical campus (CHUV) intended to foster by its proximity and emphasis catalytic interactions and cooperative research with clinical cancer researchers. Both branches of ISREC will seek to expedite progress toward deeper understanding of the biology and genetics of cancer, in turn leveraging new knowledge forthcoming to develop and test innovative drug targeting strategies aimed to disrupt critical mechanisms of the disease and thereby improve the benefits of cancer therapy.*

## Media Enquiries

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