

**Autifony Therapeutics hosts symposium ‘Schizophrenia: a treatable brain disorder’  
at British Association for Psychopharmacology  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Meeting**



**London, UK – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014** - Autofony Therapeutics Limited (“Autifony”), which is pioneering the development of novel pharmaceutical treatments for hearing disorders and serious disorders of the nervous system, today hosted a satellite symposium at the British Association for Psychopharmacology 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Meeting to raise the profile of its pioneering new schizophrenia programme, now in preclinical development.

The satellite symposium, entitled ‘Schizophrenia: a treatable brain disorder’, aimed to stimulate debate about novel approaches to schizophrenia treatment, much needed in view of unmet clinical need, particularly for cognition and negative symptoms. Chaired by Professor Bill Deakin of the University of Manchester, invited speakers were:

- Professor Alison Yung, University of Manchester, speaking about ‘Early intervention in schizophrenia’
- Patricio O’Donnell, VP and Head, Psychiatry & Behavioural Disorders, Neuroscience Research Unit, Pfizer Inc., talking about ‘Animal models for schizophrenia research: establishing efficacy of novel targets and biomarkers’
- Professor Carol Tamminga Professor and Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, talking about ‘Psychosis in schizophrenia: molecular and behavioural biosignatures’.



Autifony and collaborators from the Universities of Manchester and Newcastle displayed posters at this event illustrating some of the work carried out on Autofony's first-in-class Kv3 ion channel modulators, a potential novel treatment for schizophrenia, and an exciting new mechanism to treat this area of high unmet medical need. The research collaboration, which was initiated in 2013, is part-funded by the UK's innovation agency, the Technology Strategy Board. The award followed a successful funding application to the Biomedical Catalyst, jointly funded by the Technology Strategy Board and the Medical Research Council.

Dr Charles Large, CEO, said: "We are delighted that such eminent leaders in the field of schizophrenia research agreed to speak at our satellite symposium. Autofony believes that novel approaches to the treatment of schizophrenia are badly needed, and based on our preclinical data, we are optimistic that our innovative Kv3 ion channel modulator approach may be a very exciting addition to the field."

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#### **About Autofony Therapeutics Ltd**

Autifony Therapeutics is an independent UK based biotechnology company formed in 2011 as a spin-out from GSK, which retains equity in the company. The company is focused on the development of high value, novel medicines to treat hearing disorders and serious disorders of the central nervous system. Autofony Therapeutics is funded by SV Life Sciences, Imperial Innovations, Pfizer Venture Investments, International Biotechnology Trust PLC and UCL Business. [www.autifony.com](http://www.autifony.com)

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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#### **About The University of Manchester**

The University of Manchester, a member of the Russell Group, is one of the largest and most popular universities in the UK. It has 20 academic schools and hundreds of specialist research groups undertaking pioneering multi-disciplinary teaching and research of worldwide significance. According to the results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, The University of Manchester is one of the country's major research institutions, rated third in the UK in terms of 'research power'. The University has an annual income of £807 million and is ranked 40th in the world and fifth in the UK for the quality of its teaching and impact of its research.

#### **About Newcastle University**

Newcastle University is a Russell Group University, which ranks in the top 20 of UK universities in The Sunday Times 2013 University Guide. Amongst its peers Newcastle University is the 10th in the UK for student satisfaction and in the UK's top 12 for research power in Science and Engineering. 95% of Newcastle University students are in a job or further training within six months of graduating, and they have a world-class reputation for research excellence, spearheading three major societal challenges that have a significant impact on global society. These themes are: Ageing and Health, Sustainability, and Social Renewal.



### **About the Technology Strategy Board**

The Technology Strategy Board is the UK government's innovation agency. Its goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit [www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org).