

## **ASTERAND PLC**

### **Board Appointments**

Asterand plc (LSE: ATD), a leading provider of human tissue and services to pharmaceutical companies engaged in drug discovery research, announces appointments of Jill L. Force and Robert Salisbury as Non-Executive Directors. Ms. Force was formerly EVP and General Counsel of Life-Care Holdings, Inc. and Mr. Salisbury was formerly EVP and CFO of Pharmacia & Upjohn. In addition, the Company discloses that Mina Sooch and John Cullinane have stepped down from the Board. All changes are with immediate effect.

Jack Davis, Chairman of Asterand plc commented:

*“With these appointments, Asterand continues to execute on its strategy of broadening the collective experience of the Board in line with its overall objectives of sustained profitability and future growth. Bob and Jill are accomplished business leaders with extensive experience in the life sciences and healthcare sectors. I am confident that their proven track history within these sectors will be valuable as Asterand continues to pursue its strategic objectives.”*

Ms. Force is currently a Partner with The Allegro Group, Inc. (Louisville, KY) which provides interim management and business advisory services to public and private healthcare companies as well as equity and venture capital firms. Prior to this position, she served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Administrative Officer for Life-Care, a privately held company that operates 20 long term acute care hospitals. Ms. Force spent 10 years as SVP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Vencor, Inc. (now Kindred Healthcare, Inc.) where she was part of a team that grew the company from one hospital to a Fortune 500 operator of hospitals, nursing facilities and contract medical services. Ms. Force is a certified public accountant and an attorney with a degree in Political Science from Miami University, a Master of Science in Accounting from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctorate from University of Louisville School of Law.

Mr. Salisbury has more than 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, he was Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc (Windsor UK) and as such had full responsibility for the finance, corporate strategy, human resources, investor relations & corporate communication functions within the company. In this capacity, he was integral to implementation of the post-merger global integration of the two companies across its units and subsidiaries within 48 countries. Mr. Salisbury has extensive investor contacts through his involvement in Pharmacia's \$4 billion secondary stock offering and other investor relations activities. Mr. Salisbury has a degree in Finance and an M.B.A. from Florida State University. Mr. Salisbury is currently a Director and Chair of the Audit Committee at Enzon Pharmaceuticals Inc (Bridgewater, NJ).

Jack Davis, Chairman of Asterand plc, added:

*"I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Sooch and Mr. Cullinane for their service to the Company. They have each served as board members of Asterand, Inc. and then subsequently Asterand plc since 2003. During their tenure, the Company has made tremendous progress and we greatly appreciate their guidance and counsel. I wish them both well in their future endeavours."*

**For further information contact:**

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**Director disclosures:**

Mr. Salisbury currently holds the following company directorships:

Enzon Pharmaceuticals (Bridgewater, NJ)

Fundamental Management Corporation (Miami, FL)

In the past five (5) years Ms. Force has held the following company directorships:

LabOne, Inc. (Kansas City, MO)

Trover Solutions (Louisville, KY)

In the past five (5) years Mr. Salisbury has held the following company directorships:

Viragen Inc. (Plantation, FL)

There is no further information required to be disclosed under Rule 9.6.13R of the Listing Rules of the Financial Services Authority.

**Notes to Editors**

Asterand is a leading supplier of high quality human tissue and tissue-based services. Our comprehensive approach to human tissue and research services offers pharmaceutical, biotech and diagnostic companies the unique opportunity to have one company meet all of their human biomaterial needs along the continuum of drug discovery and development. Our mission is to accelerate target discovery and compound validation and enable pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to take safer and more effective drugs into the clinic.