



PRESS RELEASE

## **Newron Pharmaceuticals Appoints Rolf Stahel as Chairman**

### **Former CEO of Shire Pharmaceuticals Brings Extensive Experience in Building Pharmaceutical Companies**

**Milan, Italy - 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**– Newron Pharmaceuticals SpA, a Research and Development company focused on novel CNS therapies, announced today the appointment of Rolf Stahel as non-executive Chairman of the Board of Directors. Mr Stahel brings to Newron over 30 years experience in the pharmaceutical industry, most recently as Chief Executive of Shire Pharmaceuticals Group plc.

“Rolf is one the most successful and respected leaders in the European biotechnology industry. Through highly focused business acumen, Rolf built Shire from a private early-stage company to a multi-billion dollar global organization,” noted Dr. Luca Benatti, CEO of Newron Pharmaceuticals. “We believe that Rolf’s vast experience complements that of our current board members and senior management. His passion for business and his reputation of driving winning strategies makes Rolf the perfect choice for this position as Newron moves into the next stage of corporate development.”

Mr. Stahel was Chief Executive of Shire from 1994 till March 2003. During his tenure at Shire, he managed six mergers and acquisitions and helped build the company from a loss making private company to a global pharmaceutical company with a market capitalization of more than \$3 billion and 1800 employees. Prior to joining Shire, Mr. Stahel spent more than 27 years with Wellcome plc advancing through various managerial positions in sales & marketing in the UK, Switzerland, Italy, Thailand and Singapore. His long history at Wellcome culminated with the global, UK-based role as Director of Group Marketing.

“Newron is developing therapies for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy and pain, all diseases with major unmet medical needs. Management has rapidly advanced three encouraging development projects and at the same time broadened its research in the field of Central Nervous System disorders. Newron has created a promising platform on which to further develop the company and I look forward to working with them,” said Rolf Stahel.

#### **About Newron Pharmaceuticals**

Newron Pharmaceuticals SpA is a Research and Development company focused on novel ion channel-based therapies for diseases of the Central Nervous System (CNS), particularly Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy and pain. Newron is entering phase III clinical trials in Parkinson’s disease with safinamide, a unique molecule with multiple mechanism of action currently in Phase II clinical development also for epilepsy. In addition to safinamide, phase II trials with ralfinamide, a potent sodium channel blocker for the treatment of neuropathic pain, have been initiated. Newron’s clinical pipeline is supported by a broad portfolio of early stage proprietary compounds generated by our ion channel drug discovery platform. Newron is headquartered in Bresso, near Milan, Italy. For further information visit [www.newron.com](http://www.newron.com).

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