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Company name: RIBOMIC Inc.
Representative: Yoshikazu Nakamura, President and CEO
Stock code: 4591
Listing: Tokyo Stock Exchange, Mothers Market
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Appointment of new CEO, RIBOMIC USA Inc.

We are pleased to announce that the board of directors of RIBOMIC Inc. and RIBOMIC USA Inc. approved today the appointment of Dr. Yusuf Ali as new Chief Executive Officer of RIBOMIC USA Inc. and as corporate officer of RIBOMIC Inc. effective September 15, 2017.

Dr. Ali has extensive global experience in clinical development in multiple therapeutic areas, but especially in ophthalmology. Previously, Dr. Ali was Senior Vice President at Santen Inc. in the U.S. where he led drug development activities for various ophthalmic new drugs. With over 30 years of experience in drug development, Dr. Ali has successfully launched various products to market, including Azopt® and Patanol®.

Yusuf will play a pivotal role to lead RIBOMIC's next phase of growth and value creation, as RIBOMIC plans to start clinical trials for its lead asset, the in-house developed anti-FGF2 aptamer (RBM-007), in age-related macular degeneration (AMD), potentially a blockbuster indication.

In addition, with his deep scientific expertise in drug discovery and development, and a broad network of key relationships within the biotech and pharma industry, academia, and government agencies, Yusuf will provide leadership with respect to the business development of RIBOMIC including licensing of the products of RIBOMIC and new research collaborations with global pharmaceutical companies.

Yoshikazu Nakamura, President and CEO of RIBOMIC Inc, commented:

“We are very excited that Dr. Yusuf Ali joins our RIBOMIC team as CEO of RIBOMIC USA Inc. He has numerous successful experiences in clinical developments and licensing business. Yusuf will certainly do a marvelous job in RIBOMIC to establish a strategic base in the United States and promote the global activity of our company.”

On his appointment, Dr. Ali added:

“I am extremely pleased to join RIBOMIC at this exciting stage in the development of its pipeline, most notably a first-in-class drug candidate that has the potential to provide important unmet medical benefits to patients and their loved ones with age-related macular degeneration. I look forward to working with RIBOMIC's seasoned management team as well as other internal and external partners to further accelerate its R&D capabilities as it builds its pipeline of differentiated drugs for the treatment of ophthalmic and other diseases.”



Yusuf Ali, Ph.D.

Dr. Ali has more than thirty years of global drug development experience in pharmaceutical industry. Most recently, he served as Senior Vice President of Research and Development and as a Global Function Head, Biomedical Science at Santen Incorporated in the U.S. where he played a key leadership role in developing products in therapeutic areas such as retina, glaucoma and dry eye.

He had previously been Vice President of New Product Development at GOJO Industries for over 6 years, where he played a critical role for the development of skin health products, including Purell®. Prior to that, he was employed at Alcon Laboratories for

over 14 years managing and directing groups involved in ophthalmic formulation development, drug delivery, and process development for products such as Azopt®, Patanol®, Travatan®, and Ciloxan®. Dr. Ali holds more than 25 US and international patents in the area of ophthalmic products and received a Ph.D. from the University of Florida in Chemical Engineering.

Profile of RIBOMIC

RIBOMIC is a bio-venture company centered on drug discovery. The company is engaged in the field of aptamer therapeutics, which is one type of nucleic acid medicine, a field with much potential for the development of next-generation drugs. The RiboART system, the company's core drug development platform, can be used for the development of many types of aptamer drugs. RIBOMIC is dedicated to the discovery of drugs that target the broad field of unmet medical needs, which encompasses pain, eye disorders, fibrosis and many other problems.