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## **News Release** **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007**

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### **EXPERT MEDICAL DIRECTOR JOINS IRIS PHARMA**

**Iris Pharma a specialist CRO for global drug development in ophthalmology located in La Gaude, France, is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Mustapha Benchaboune as Medical Director.**

Dr Mustapha Benchaboune has joined the clinical services staff of the company on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Dr Benchaboune brings with him a wealth of expertise in the ophthalmic field totalizing 19 years of experience in ophthalmology.

His responsibilities will include acting as a medical advisor on clinical project teams and providing support to investigative sites and project staff on protocol issues. He will supervise planning, execution and interpretation of clinical trials and research in compliance with GCP.

Dr Mustapha Benchaboune is a respected practitioner within the University Hospital of Saint Etienne in France and specializes in retinal pathologies such as age-related macular degeneration and diabetes. He is also an expert for the French Health Authority. He has been deeply involved in clinical research activities and particularly in the research of treatments for AMD: he was the principal investigator for several Phase-I-to-IV studies and pilot studies and he was also project manager for the research hospital program on radiotherapy treatment on AMD. He previously worked for Laboratoires Novartis as a medical advisor and held an appointment at Laboratoires Théa where he was in charge of the clinical trials.

Dr Benchaboune's experience is a real asset for Iris Pharma for both preclinical and clinical activities. He brings his considerable expertise on strategic planning, design and development strategy, as well as reactive and accurate support to the clinical sites. His experience as an ophthalmologist and as an investigator will be a significant plus to best adapt study protocols and design to the real conditions of execution of the studies and significantly reduce revisions.

*"Iris Pharma has got an enviable background in ophthalmic research and I am excited to join this team. I am looking forward to the opportunity to help the company continue its success story in the future,"* said Mustapha Benchaboune.

Dr Benchaboune qualified in 1989 from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Saint Etienne in France as a physician and specialized in 1994 in ophthalmology. He also completed four university degrees in infectiology, emergency medicine, social medicine and visual function between year 1989 and 1993. He authored or co-authored dozens of publications and articles and he is a member of several ophthalmology organizations such as ARVO, AAO, EVRS, SFO...