People

A sample of goings-on in and around the biotech and pharmaceutical industry.

TARIS Bio has announced the appointment of **Tony Kingsley** (photo) as president, CEO and a member of the board of directors. As CEO, he succeeds **Purnanand Sarma**, who has stepped down to pursue new opportunities. Kingsley joins TARIS with nearly three decades of biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device industry experience. Most recently, he was president and COO at The Medicines Company. Before that, he served as global commercial head at Biogen.

"Sarma and the team have made terrific progress in leveraging their deep knowledge of epithelial bladder biology to design multiple product candidates and securing compelling clinical data for both of our programs in bladder cancer and overactive bladder," said Kingsley. "With their support and our committed investors, I am eager to sustain the momentum and accelerate later-stage development of both of our products. I hope to build TARIS to realize substantial commercial opportunities for our innovative treatments that can fundamentally redefine the treatment paradigm for patients suffering with urologic disorders."

Scynexis has named **Armando Anido** to its board of directors. Anido currently serves as chairman and CEO of Zynerva Pharmaceuticals, a role he has held since October 2014.

Kamada Ltd. has announced the appointment of **Michal Ayalon** as vice president of R&D, succeeding **Liliana Bar**, who is retiring. Ayalon has nearly 20 years of experience in drug discovery and development, including nonclinical and clinical development, manufacturing, and control, regulatory and project management.

Katrine Bosley has stepped down from her role as president, CEO and member of the board of directors of Editas Medicine. **Cynthia Collins**, formerly CEO of Human Longevity and a member of the Editas board since December 2018, has been named interim CEO. Bosley will continue with Editas in an advisory capacity until the end of 2019 to facilitate a smooth transition.

Pliant Therapeutics has named **Keith Cummings** (photo) as CFO and **Eduard Gorina** as vice president, clinical

development. Cummings joins Pliant from Citigroup Global Markets, where he served as a director in the investment banking healthcare group. Gorina was most recently executive director of clinical development

at FibroGen and previously held senior director roles in clinical science at Portola Pharmaceuticals and InterMune.

Clinical-stage oncology therapies developer Corvus Pharmaceuticals has named **Linda S. Grais** to its board of directors and **Mehrdad Mobasher** as vice president and chief medical officer. Grais replaces **Peter Moldt**, who had served as a director since January 2015. Mobasher joins Corvus from Genentech/Roche, where he was most recently venetoclax global development team leader and global clinical leader.

Sir Philip Hampton has announced his intention to step down as non-executive chairman of the board of GlaxoSmithKline as the company prepares to split into two businesses. In December, GSK unveiled its plan to create a spinoff for prescription drugs and vaccines and another for over-the-counter products, after forming a new joint venture with Pfizer's consumer health division.

Roche head of global product strategy **Alexander Hardy** is returning to Genentech, where he started in 2005, as CEO. He takes over from **Bill Anderson**, who moved to Switzerland to become CEO of Roche Pharmaceuticals in January.

LEO Pharma has appointed **Thomas Hultsch** as head of translational medicine. He was most recently senior director for translational medicine at Sanofi US and

previously served as head of R&D at Allergopharma and clinical lead for dermatology programs at Sanofi Genzyme.

Robert Jacks has been appointed president and CEO of Indalo Therapeutics. Jacks brings to Indalo 18 years of experience in biopharma product development and corporate strategy, most recently serving as cofounder, president and CFO of Symbiomix Therapeutics.

Calico Life Sciences, which researches aging, has announced the appointment of **Aarif Khakoo** as head of drug development, a newly created role. Prior to joining Calico, Khakoo was at Amgen, where he most recently was vice president and head of translational medicine, global development and Amgen's South San Francisco site head.

Scancell Holdings has announced the appointment of **Samantha Paston** as head of research and **Adrian Parry** as head of manufacturing. Paston joins Scancell from Immunocore, where she has held several positions since June 2008, including head of T-cell cloning and group leader.

Metabolon has appointed **Michael Rasche** as president of international business. He joins the company from Definiens, where he was chief commercial officer. Before Definiens, Rasche was corporate vice president of global commercial operations at Ayoxxa.

Geron has appointed **Aleksandra Rizo** as chief medical officer. She brings more than 10 years of experience in hematology-oncology clinical development, most recently serving as executive director, strategy and clinical lead at Celgene.

Vertex Pharmaceuticals has terminated **Ian Smith** from his positions as COO and interim CFO following an investigation into his personal behavior that the company said violated its code of conduct unrelated to Vertex's financial and business performance. **Paul Silva**, senior vice president, corporate controller and chief accounting officer, has been appointed interim CFO while the company conducts a formal search for a permanent successor. □

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