



## **SYNTAXIN APPOINTS EDUARD E. HOLDENER TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Oxford, UK, 17 March 2008:** Syntaxin Ltd (“Syntaxin” or “the Company”), a biopharmaceutical company developing novel biologic drugs that control cell secretion, today announces the appointment of Eduard E. Holdener as Non-Executive Director with immediate effect.

Dr Holdener has over 20 years of international pharmaceutical senior executive experience and was most recently Chief Medical Officer of F. Hoffman-La Roche’s Pharma Division. He was also Global Head of Pharmaceutical Drug Development at Roche where he was instrumental in establishing and expanding Roche’s therapeutic areas and in achieving several key international approvals for oncology, rheumatology, and virology drugs such as MabThera. He also led Roche’s development operations in Japan for three years and was a member of the Chugai Co. acquisition and integration team during the Roche/Chugai merger in 2001. Dr Holdener holds a medical degree from the University of Zurich and completed a two year clinical and experimental fellowship in oncology at the University of Kansas Medical School, USA.

**Patrick Doyle, CEO of Syntaxin, said:** “We are delighted to welcome Eduard to our Board. His significant global pharmaceutical experience and strong track record in drug research and development will be a great addition to Syntaxin as we continue to broaden our expertise and develop our novel proprietary pipeline towards the clinic.”

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### **About Syntaxin ([www.syntaxin.com](http://www.syntaxin.com))**

Syntaxin Ltd is a biopharmaceutical company focusing on the discovery and development of new medicines derived from bacterial toxins to treat chronic diseases. The Company was created in 2005 as a spin out from the UK Health Protection Agency, with funding from Abingworth Management Ltd.

The Company’s product pipeline is based on exploiting the potent pharmacological properties of a family of microbial proteins, known as exotoxins. The best known are the botulinum toxins, which cause a prolonged block to neurotransmission by cholinergic nerves. By changing the cell-targeting specificity of these molecules, Syntaxin is developing novel biologics that selectively control aberrant secretion from specific cell types involved in pain, neuromuscular, respiratory and metabolic diseases. These engineered proteins are typically potent and long acting, which are necessary properties for the treatment of chronic disease.

Syntaxin’s core technology is based on decades of research at the Health Protection Agency, Porton Down which has provided the company with a dominant intellectual property portfolio.