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European CRO and US-based Trial Management Organization Announce Unique Partnership to Ensure Highest Quality of Clinical Trials in India

Zürich/Chicago– In response to growing demand by European and US biopharmaceutical companies for clinical trial support services in India from established and proven providers, Excel Life Sciences (ELS), a US-based India-focused clinical trial management organization and PFC Pharma Focus (PFC), a Switzerland-based pan-European contract research provider, announce the launch of **PFC India**, a full-service contract research organization specializing in clinical monitoring and data management services.

The exclusive relationship between ELS and PFC to launch PFC India combines the strengths of a long standing and successful European CRO in PFC with the local expertise, ground-based business savvy and quality focused trial management organization servicing global clients in ELS.

PFC India is established as a division of PFC and is a distinct entity from ELS and will service biopharmaceutical companies and CROs with their clinical trial support needs in India. The office will be located in New Delhi. Specifically, PFC India will offer its clients study planning, monitoring, audit and data management services.

"I am very pleased that we can extend our clinical research services with PFC India from Europe to Israel to India and to offer our clients access to a large diverse patient population as well as to a significant number of patients suffering from rare diseases" said Dr. Kurt Pfister, CEO and co-founder of PFC Pharma Focus Ltd. in Switzerland. India offers the unique opportunity of highly trained medically qualified persons and a legal and regulatory environment fully supporting international GCP standards. ELS is well established in India and the team has market leading experience in conducting global trials. They have a proven track record in involving high

performing centers with very good patient recruitment and retention rates and will enable us to make a smooth entry into this geographical area.

“Selection of ELS as a partner was a result of rigorous due diligence and a shared vision to conduct clinical research with the highest levels of credibility, ethics and integrity” said Dr. Pfister.

“We are excited about this unique new relationship, bringing one of the most respected European-based CROs to India. PFC India will bring an unprecedented focus on quality data and good clinical practice to India, at a time when the FDA and Drugs Controller General’s office of India is stepping up its compliance standards and pharmaceutical companies are requesting a high level of service, preferably from an experienced and established brand” said Dr. Vijai Kumar, President and Chief Medical Officer of Excel Life Sciences.

The number of new clinical trials initiated in India is currently growing at more than 50% annually, a growth rate that is requiring a substantial amount of participation from India’s strong physician base and medical institutions in the form of new clinical investigators and research sites. In addition, the number of patients participating in trials in India is growing as well. Combined, these market changes make it essential that all studies are monitored and managed at or above the highest international standards to ensure quality, timeliness and safety.

About Pharma Focus

Based in Switzerland, PFC Pharma Focus is a premium contract research organization (CRO), providing product development services in the life science and health care industries. Founded in 1992 by prominent experts in all realms of clinical services, the mission of PFC Pharma Focus is to bring a new look to the drug development experience by addressing the limitations of conventional study practices. This year marks PFC 17 anniversary providing clinical services, and our clients and partners include pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, and academic and government organizations. PFC services include running clinical studies from phase I to IV+, medical writing, importing through storage to distribution of clinical material, training in pharmaceutical medicine and development of risk management plans. For more information visit: <http://www.pfc-cro.com>

About Excel Life Sciences

Headquartered in Chicago, IL with offices in Boston, Raleigh-Durham, Washington DC, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi and 21 other locations across India, ELS is one of the most experienced and fastest growing trial management and site support organizations in India, offering customized clinical trial solutions including: regulatory consulting, preparations, submissions and query resolution; site identification and selection; patient

recruitment and retention; training of all clinical research stakeholders; technology transfer; product licensing and more.

ELS has one of the most experienced and respected clinical operations teams in India with over 125 years of collective experience in conducting more than 350 global and domestic trials at hundreds of sites and with thousands of patients. ELS has also trained over 1,500 clinical research personnel in India. For more information visit: www.excellifesciences.com