

Magid Abou-Gharbia, Ph.D., FRSC joins LAXAI as Scientific Advisor

LAXAI, a Leading Contract Research Organization based in the U.S. and India providing integrated services across the drug discovery and development spectrum today announced that Magid Abou-Gharbia, Ph.D., FRSC has joined the company as its Scientific Advisor.

Naren Mallakunta, CEO of LAXAI, welcomed Magid by saying, "It is a privilege to have Magid Abou-Gharbia as our Scientific Advisor. His extensive knowledge and experience in the Global Research Pharmaceutical Industry will guide LAXAI in its endeavor to offer more value based integrated/collaborative research services to our Biopharmaceutical Clients."

"I am pleased to join LAXAI as its Scientific Advisor. LAXAI with their strong management team and experienced staff is regarded among the leaders in contract research and outsourcing services," said Professor Abou-Gharbia. The Moulder Center for Drug Discovery Research at the School of Pharmacy, Temple University is pleased to enter into a strategic partnership with LAXAI in the areas of Medicinal Chemistry, Biology and Integrated/Collaborative Research. LAXAI is an ideal partner for biotech and major Pharma to increase medicinal chemistry capacity and complement internal in-house Drug Discovery resources," said Professor Abou-Gharbia

Dr. Abou-Gharbia is the Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Director of the Moulder Center for Drug Discovery Research (MCDDR) at the School of Pharmacy, Temple University. Prior to joining Temple University in 2008, Dr. Abou-Gharbia spent 26 years at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals where he was Senior Vice President and Head of Chemical Screening Sciences. He was responsible for overseeing and directing the chemistry and screening research efforts of over 500 scientists at four U.S. research facilities and one in Hyderabad, India in support of drug discovery in neuroscience, inflammation, women's health/bone, oncology and cardiovascular disease. His research efforts resulted in 100 U.S. patents and over 350 worldwide patents and contributed to the discovery of several marketed drugs and many compounds currently under clinical evaluation including two SNRI anti-depressants, Effexor® and Pristiq®, an anticancer rapamycin derivative, Torisel®, a broad spectrum antibiotic, Tygacil®, and a selective estrogen receptor modulator, bazedoxifene. Dr. Abou-Gharbia received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. After a two year NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship at Temple University, he joined Wyeth. Dr. Abou-Gharbia will provide expertise and insight into strategies and medicinal chemistry approaches utilized in the design of novel small molecules CNS therapeutics. His numerous awards include: Induction to ACS Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame (2008); ACS Heroes of Chemistry (2008); Alfred Burger Award in Medicinal Chemistry (2008); Science and Technology Medal from the R&D Council of New Jersey



(2008); selected among the Top 10 Scientists in New Jersey by New Jersey Business Magazine (2008); American Institute of Chemists (AIC) Chemistry Pioneer Award (2007); Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC 2006); Researcher of the Year (2006) from Health Care Institute of NJ (HINJ); Trailblazer Award (2006) from Science Spectrum; Induction into the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame (2004); The Procter Medal (2003); ACS Earle B. Barnes Award (2001); Philadelphia Organic Chemists Club (POCC) Award (2001); Egyptian Pharmaceutical Society Drug Discovery Award (2000); Named as one of the most Prolific Inventors of the Decade by US Patent & Trade Mark (1998); ACS-Philadelphia Section Award (1997); Wyeth-Ayerst Exceptional Achievement Award (1992); and others.

LAXAI (www.laxai.com) provides services in Clinical Research, Medicinal Chemistry, Biology, Process R&D and Analytical Services, Strategic Resourcing and Training to the Biopharmaceutical and Agrochemical Companies. LAXAI offers a unique value proposition to clients in their drug discovery and development initiatives through innovative global partnership models.