



BIRMINGHAM PROFESSOR LEADS THE PACK WITH HIGHEST IMPACT EVER

BIRMINGHAM, UK – 2nd September, 2015 – Professor Nicholas Barnes is the principal author of the most highly cited research paper ever from any research institution in Birmingham. The paper has now achieved over 2000 citations.

After publication of a research paper, peer judgment of the quality and its impact in the research community comes from other researchers world-wide citing the paper to support their own research publications; hence the number of citations a research paper receives is a primary measure of the value of the paper to the research community.

Professor Nicholas Barnes – the principal founder of the Birmingham-based pharmaceutical company, Celentyx Ltd, is the First Author of the most highly cited research paper ever from any academic or industrial research institution in Birmingham (e.g. academic institutions such as the University of Birmingham, Aston University, Birmingham City University and industrial research institutions). The research paper entitled 'A review of central 5-HT receptors and their function' was published in the international journal *Neuropharmacology* (the paper is also the most highly cited research paper in the history of the journal). The research paper describes the functions of the so-called 'Happy Hormone' neurotransmitter, serotonin (or to use its scientific name, 5-hydroxytryptamine [5-HT]) in the brain and the mechanism of action of drugs such as blockbuster antidepressants (e.g. Prozac), drugs that offer symptomatic relief to patients with schizophrenia, drugs used to treat migraine and drugs that reduce the severe nausea and vomiting associated with aggressive anti-cancer treatment.

'It is very rewarding to see the value placed on this work by the research community' said Professor Barnes 'we have continued to build on the foundations constructed in the paper and our interest in neurotrauma over the last few years is now bearing fruit'.

'This is a fantastic achievement for Nick Barnes and emphasizes his World-leading standing in the research community' said Professor Ann Logan (Head of Neurobiology at the University of Birmingham). 'Neuroscience research at Birmingham attracts prestigious £multi-million grants due to the breadth and depth of neuroscience expertise, which has generated many exciting breakthroughs in potential treatments for clinical conditions of unmet need arising from neurotrauma and spinal cord injury'.

'We are proud and delighted for Professor Nick Barnes to achieve this outstanding milestone' added Professor Tony Belli (Consultant Neurosurgeon and Director of the National Institute for Health Surgical Reconstruction and

Microbiology Research Centre based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham). 'Along with Ann Logan and myself, Nick is a founding member of the Translational Neurotrauma Research Group here in Birmingham and the group benefits hugely from his involvement, which is allowing us to identify and progress novel therapeutic strategies to benefit patients following neurotrauma'.

'This is a momentous accomplishment emphasized further by the very high quality research outputs from the various research institutes in Birmingham' added Professor John Gordon (Chief Scientific Officer, Celentyx Ltd) 'Celentyx's research is at the cutting edge of new knowledge and it is a well earned tribute to Nick that his World-leading expertise is recognized in such a convincing way'.

'I am delighted to see Nick's seminal paper on 5-HT has been cited over 2000 times - a notable achievement' said Professor Asif Ahmed (Pro-Vice Chancellor for Health & Executive Dean, Aston Medical School, Aston University) 'Nick is a generous and helpful scientist, when I first joined the University of Birmingham in 1993 he was one of the first persons to offer his laboratory facilities, know-how and resources. His in-depth understanding of angiotensin-II pharmacology contributed considerably to our two JCI publications in the nineties. He also champions commercialization of research activities and start-up businesses for academic colleagues, which is desperately needed to create a culture of discovery-based biomedical enterprises in Birmingham'.

Professor Bruno Frenguelli (Editor-in-Chief, *Neuropharmacology*) added 'It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge Nick's terrific achievement in having over 2000 citations for his seminal review on 5-HT receptors. The fact that this review is still being cited by experts in the field indicates the thorough and comprehensive treatment that Nick and his co-author Trevor Sharp gave to this important topic. Such high quality papers have contributed to *Neuropharmacology* becoming one of the top journals in the fields of neuroscience and pharmacology. Having known Nick since his appointment at Birmingham in the early 90s when I was PhD student in the then Department of Pharmacology, I am especially pleased at Nick's achievement and, as the Editor-in-Chief of *Neuropharmacology*, look forward to publishing an updated version of his review that will no doubt be as influential and as heavily cited.'

Notes to Editor:

**Media contacts: Dr Catherine Brady, Chief Operating Officer, Celentyx Ltd
+44(0)121 414 8199 [enquiries@celentyx.com]**

Professor Nicholas Barnes is available for interview. Professional photos are also available by email.

The paper's full title is: 'A review of central 5-HT receptors and their function' by Barnes, Nicholas M. & Sharp, Trevor. *Neuropharmacology* volume 38, pages 1083-1152, 1999. The paper has now received 2041 citations making it the most highly cited paper ever from a Birmingham research institute (e.g. University of Birmingham, Aston University, Birmingham City University, and industrial research institutes).

Professor Nicholas Barnes

Professor Barnes is the principal founder of the venture capital backed pharmaceutical research and development company, Celentyx Ltd, which is based at the Birmingham Research Park on the University of Birmingham campus. He is also an Honorary Professor at the University of Melbourne and the University of Siena and is currently Professor of Neuropharmacology at the University of Birmingham. Professor Barnes researches the function of 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT also known as serotonin) and his work has supported the development of a number of drugs that have reached the market. He is also the Chairman of the prestigious IUPHAR (International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology) 5-HT Receptor Nomenclature Committee and has advised major pharmaceutical companies and Government concerning pharmacological issues.

Celentyx Ltd

Celentyx Ltd is a venture capital backed pharmaceutical research and development company that is based at the Birmingham Research Park on the University of Birmingham campus. The company identifies and develops drugs to treat clinical disorders of unmet need. Founded in 2007 as a spin-out from the University of Birmingham, Celentyx Ltd brings £multi-million benefit to the region and has partnered major and SME pharmaceutical companies helping bring drugs to market. Celentyx Ltd provides high impact for the national economy with the majority of revenues attracted from overseas.