



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **World Class Scientific and Business Advisors Join Aura Biosciences**

CAMBRIDGE, MA, June 26, 2009 – Aura Biosciences, Inc., a biotech company focused on development of nano-enabled drugs, today announced the addition of three Boston-area advisors to its leadership team. Lawrence C. Best, Chairman of OXO Capital and former CFO of Boston Scientific, will join Aura’s Board of Directors. Sangeeta N. Bhatia, MD, PhD, Professor of Health Sciences and Technology and Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), joins Aura’s Scientific Advisory Board and Richard Kivel, CEO of recently acquired TheraGenetics and a Senior Lecturer at MIT Sloan School of Management, joins Aura’s Corporate Advisors.

Aura Biosciences, after raising an initial round of \$3M in private funding earlier this year, established its headquarters in Cambridge in order to capitalize on the region’s entrepreneurial focus and expertise in biopharmaceuticals. “We are honored to bring these three new advisors into Aura,” said Elisabet de los Pinos, PhD, Founder and CEO of Aura. “Each is a leader in his or her field, and will provide invaluable guidance as Aura builds its strategic partnerships and advances our nano-enabled drug delivery technology.” Aura expects to file an IND next year for its first Nanosmart drug, a therapy to improve the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

Mr. Best is Chairman and Founder of OXO Capital LLC. Between 1992 and 2007, he served as Executive Vice President, Head of Strategic Build and CFO for Boston Scientific, a global leader in medical device technology. Previously, Mr. Best was a partner at Ernst & Young, specializing in serving multinational companies in the high technology and life sciences fields.

“As a veteran of the medical device industry, and now as a life sciences investor, I see a lot of new companies with great ideas,” said Mr. Best, “Aura stands out because it has unique, proprietary technology as well as a business model that provides flexibility that is so critical to an early stage company. I look forward to helping Aura continue the development, and eventual commercialization, of the Nanosmart-enabled therapies.”

Dr. Bhatia is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and a Professor of Health Sciences and Technology (HST) and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) at the MIT and Director of the Laboratory for Multiscale Regenerative Technologies. She is a member of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research and the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, an Associate member of the Broad Institute, and a Biomedical Engineer at the Brigham & Women’s Hospital. An expert in nanotechnology, Dr. Bhatia’s laboratory is focused on researching the applications

of micro- and nanotechnology, particularly for tissue repair and regeneration. Dr. Bhatia holds 15 issued or pending patents, has experience at Pfizer, Genetics Institute, ICI Pharmaceuticals, and Organogenesis, and is also the co-founder of two startups.

Richard Kivel is a serial entrepreneur with a proven record of building successful companies and world-class teams. Since April 2006 he has served as CEO of TheraGenetics, Ltd, a UK-based genetic diagnostics company acquired this past January. Prior to TheraGenetics, Mr. Kivel has worked with and built multiple startups, including as CEO of MolecularWare, Inc., a MIT spin-out and leader in genomic and proteomic microarray technologies. Richard is also a senior Lecturer at MIT Sloan School of Management and Chairman of the Board of The MIT Enterprise Forum.

**About Aura Biosciences, Inc.**

Aura Biosciences, Inc. is a next-generation biotech company developing the Nanosmart™ platform for the delivery of nano-enabled drugs. Nanosmart solves critical issues in drug delivery by encapsulating therapies within protein nanoparticles engineered for precise targeting, immune system evasion, and efficient cellular uptake. Aura is applying Nanosmart to two important areas, the well-studied area of chemotherapeutics and the emerging field of RNAi. With an initial focus on pancreatic cancer, Aura's goal is to increase patient survival rates by making chemotherapy better tolerated and more efficacious. The company is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For more information, visit [www.aurabiosciences.com](http://www.aurabiosciences.com).

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