

# TearSolutions, Inc.

natural therapy for dry eye

## TearSolutions, Inc. Appoints Leonard Borrmann To Its Board of Directors

Charlottesville, Va. – November 24, 2020 – TearSolutions, Inc., a privately held developer of Lacripep™, a naturally occurring replacement therapy for the treatment of Dry Eye, announced today that its Board of Directors has elected Dr. Leonard R. Borrmann, PharmD to its Board.

Dr. Borrmann has 30 years of experience in the ophthalmic industry, serving most recently as the Global Head of External Innovation at Johnson & Johnson Vision. Prior to Johnson & Johnson, he was the VP of Research and Development at Abbott Medical Optics, a Division of Abbott Laboratories for eight years, and as Executive VP Research and Development at Advanced Medical Optics prior to its acquisition by Abbott Laboratories. Dr. Borrmann was President and CEO of several early-stage pharmaceutical companies, after starting his career at Allergan, Inc., beginning as a Clinical Research Coordinator, and rising to VP, Business Development.

Dr. Borrmann holds a B.S. degree from the University of Southern California, and a Doctor of Pharmacy also from the University of Southern California.

“Leonard Borrmann brings an extensive, in-depth understanding of the ophthalmic market combined with a strong scientific and regulatory background that make him an ideal addition to our Board” said Mark Logan, Executive Chair of the TearSolutions Board of Directors. “We are pleased that he has agreed to join our Board and look forward to his contributions.”

“I have followed the groundbreaking discoveries on the composition of human tears made by Dr. Gordon Laurie, Professor at the University of Virginia and Founder of TearSolutions,” said Dr. Borrmann. “I believe Lacripep, Tear Solutions’ lead product candidate that is based on Dr. Laurie’s ongoing research, has the potential to offer doctors and patients a truly unique and effective therapy for the treatment of Dry Eye Disease, as demonstrated in the recently completed Phase I/II clinical trial in Sjögren’s Syndrome patients with Dry Eye. I am excited to join the board and help advance a therapy that could provide relief to what is a debilitating condition for millions of people.”

As an example of the discoveries being made, a newly accepted article in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, which was a collaboration of seven different institutions in the US, Portugal, and Spain and led by Dr. Laurie, reveals that Lacripep rapidly stabilizes the tear lipid layer of human Dry Eye tears, as well as normal tears from which the tear form of Lacripep has been biochemically extracted. “Our understanding of Lacripep’s importance in tear film

stability continues to grow," said Dr. Laurie. "One of the primary roles of lipids in human tears is to prevent collapse of the tear film. They do this by reducing surface tension. This recent work shows that Lacripep plays a critical role in this process by binding and stabilizing the tear lipid layer. When Lacripep is not present, the tear film collapses leaving the epithelial cells of the eye exposed to the environment and susceptible to damage, thus starting the cascade of inflammation and the emergence of the hallmark signs and symptoms of Dry Eye."

### **About TearSolutions, Inc.**

TearSolutions is a privately held biotechnology company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of novel therapies for the treatment of patients with Dry Eye disease. The Company is based in Charlottesville, VA. The Company is currently developing Lacripep, a bioactive proteoform of lacritin, for chronic treatment of the signs and symptoms of Dry Eye disease and recently completed a Phase I/II clinical trial of Lacripep in Primary Sjögren's Syndrome (PSS) patients, who experience the most severe form of Dry Eye. This trial represents the largest ophthalmic trial undertaken to date in the PSS patient population and is the first clinical study conducted with Lacripep as the active ingredient. Lacripep exhibited a highly statistically significant reduction in sign (inferior corneal staining) and symptom (burning and stinging). Importantly, it showed this improvement after only two weeks of dosing. Lacripep was well tolerated in this population and no serious treatment related adverse events were observed. TearSolutions continues to focus on the development of additional product candidates for Dry Eye disease. More information is available at [www.tearsolutions.com](http://www.tearsolutions.com)

### **About Lacripep™**

Lacripep was patented by Dr. Gordon Laurie, a professor at the University of Virginia, based on his groundbreaking NIH funded research into the composition of human tears. He discovered lacritin and developed Lacripep, which represents a unique treatment modality, since it would be a naturally occurring protein replacement therapy to restore homeostasis in patients with Dry Eye, as well as representing a novel mechanism of action in Dry Eye. The intellectual property invented by Dr. Laurie is exclusively licensed to TearSolutions, Inc. from the University of Virginia Licensing and Ventures Group.

### **Investors & Media**

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