

## **Merrion Pharmaceuticals to Present GIRES data at the 2009 Annual AAPS Meeting & Exhibition, Los Angeles, California.**

Dublin, Ireland 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

Merrion Pharmaceuticals Plc, an international specialty pharmaceutical company, will present a poster at 2009 AAPS (American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists) Annual meeting and exhibition at the Los Angeles Convention Centre in California. The AAPS annual meeting is a dynamic international forum for the exchange of knowledge among scientists to enhance their contributions to health.

The poster presentation is titled Control of Rate of Gas Generation for a Gastrointestinal Retention System, and focuses on Merrions GIRES technology. GIRES is a novel gastric retention technology, which has been shown in clinical trials to allow very extended (18-24 hours) release of drug into the stomach. This latest work is a result of a collaboration with the School of Pharmacy at University College Cork, and was supported in part by a grant from Enterprise Ireland, an Irish government agency. The poster will be presented on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from 8am – 12pm in the West Exhibit Hall A.

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### **About Merrion:**

Merrion Pharmaceuticals ([www.merrionpharma.com](http://www.merrionpharma.com)) is a publicly listed specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the development of oral forms (tablets/capsules) of drugs that have poor absorption and are generally given by injection. Merrion was established in 2003 to commercialize various technologies acquired from Elan Corporation, plc. Merrion Pharmaceutical's patented drug delivery technologies increase bioavailability, by improving absorption in the gastrointestinal tract, of drugs that are otherwise poorly absorbed. This can provide substantial benefit in patient convenience and safety, and might also provide enhanced drug efficacy. Merrion utilizes its technology to develop new oral drugs in two ways; it develops its own proprietary drugs using GIPET and partners with other pharmaceutical companies in developing oral GIPET formulations of their products.

## **About GIRES™**

GIRES™, a gastro-retentive technology, is targeted at therapeutics that:

- have short half-lives
- exhibit a narrow absorption window
- require good pharmacokinetic control due to a narrow therapeutic index
- require extended local delivery to the gastrointestinal tract

These drugs often require frequent dosing or produce unwanted side effects due to widely fluctuating blood drug levels. GIRES™ addresses each of these issues.

GIRES™ technology consists of a controlled-release dosage form inside an inflatable pouch, which is placed in a drug capsule for oral administration. Upon dissolution of the capsule, a gas-generating system inflates the pouch in the stomach. In clinical trials the pouch has been shown to be retained in the stomach for 16-24 hours.

In addition the presence of food enhances the retention of the GIRES™ system.

The GIRES™ system has been tested clinically for performance as well as safety.

## **About AAPS:**

The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists provides a dynamic international forum for the exchange of knowledge among scientists to enhance their contributions to health. We offer timely scientific programs, ongoing education, opportunities for networking, and professional development.