



## Altheia Science Appoints Gaurav Shah to Board of Directors

### Shah brings extensive international development experience and talent in cell and gene therapy

Milano (Italy)/New York (NY, US), May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Gaurav Shah, MD, co-founder, President and CEO of Rocket Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ: RCKT), joined Altheia Science's Board of Directors, bringing extensive international development experience, expertise and guidance in the cell and gene therapy space. Gaurav teams in the Board with prof. Alessandra Biffi (leader scientist of the successful gene therapy for metachromatic leukodystrophy), Pierluigi Paracchi (co-founder and Chairman&CEO at Genenta Science), Raffaele Petrone (Board Member and early investor at Advanced Accelerator Applications), Gaudenzio Roveda (early investor at Advanced Accelerator Applications), Enzo Adamo (lawyer) and Paolo Rizzardi, MD, Chairman & CEO.

*"To be patient focused through trust, expertise, innovative thinking and action are the qualities and values that Gaurav brings into our Board of Directors, as an impressive product developer in gene therapy with outstanding managerial skills"* said Paolo Rizzardi, MD, Chairman & CEO of Altheia Science. *"Altheia intends to deliver transformative medicine and it's with leaders as Gaurav that this can become a real opportunity for patients. And, this strengthens the goal of Altheia to develop as an international player in the cell and gene therapy space".*

Gaurav leads Rocket Pharma, a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on developing first-in-class gene therapy options for rare, devastating diseases. Prior to this role Gaurav was a Global Program Head in the Cell & Gene Therapies Unit at Novartis, where he had strategic oversight of 12 functions and helped spearhead pivotal trials with CART-19 for patients with Leukemia and Lymphoma – later approved by the FDA as Kymriah. Earlier roles at Novartis included lead physician for Biosimilars and for Afinitor. Gaurav started his career in the pharmaceutical industry at ImClone/Eli Lilly as a Medical Director overseeing oncology trials focused on monoclonal antibodies. This work in industry has led to multiple drug approvals for children and adults with malignancies and other devastating disorders.

Gaurav graduated from Harvard University (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) with a degree in Behavioral Neuroscience and currently serves as an interviewer for Admissions for Harvard College. He received his MD from Columbia (AOA), completed his internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School and hematology/oncology fellowship training at Memorial-Sloan Kettering. After receiving board certification in medical oncology, he served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Oncology at Columbia.

#### About Altheia Science

Altheia Science ([www.altheiascience.com](http://www.altheiascience.com)) has been founded by Prof. Alessandra Biffi, MD and Prof. Paolo Fiorina, MD, PhD, together with the investment company AurorA-TT ([www.aurora-tt.com](http://www.aurora-tt.com)). Altheia Science develops pioneering therapeutic tools for autoimmune diseases and cancer. The modulation of PD-L1 expression at the

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molecular and protein level is key to devise advanced treatments in autoimmune diseases and this can be achieved by first-in-class molecules controlling the PD-L1 pathway and/or by lentiviral vector-based engineering of patients' hematopoietic stem cells.

#### **About Alessandra Biffi**

Alessandra Biffi, MD, is a pediatric hematologist and stem cell transplant physician. She is Professor of Pediatrics, University of Padua and Chief of the Pediatric Onco-hematology Unit of Padua Hospital; until September 2018, Director of the Gene Therapy Program, Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, Principal Scientist at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Chair of the Scientific Review Committee for Gene Therapy at Boston Children's Hospital, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics Harvard Medical School.

She published over 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts and textbook chapters. She is actively involved in gene therapy trials for neurological genetic diseases, hemoglobinopathies and immunodeficiencies and has developed a unique expertise in the pre-clinical development and clinical testing of hematopoietic stem cell gene therapy approaches. Her publication track record includes seminal contribution to the field of cell and gene therapy.

#### **About Paolo Fiorina**

Paolo Fiorina, MD, PhD is an Immunologist, Internist and Associate Professor of Endocrinology. He is Director of the Romeo ed Enrica Invernizzi International Center for T1D at the University of Milan, Italy; Associate Professor of Endocrinology, L. Sacco Hospital, University of Milan; Chief of Endocrinology Division, ASST Sacco-Fatebenefratelli, Milan, Italy and Lecturer in Pediatrics, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He is actively involved in the Grant Committee of JDRF, American Diabetes Association (ADA), American Heart Association (AHA), and American Society of Transplantation (AST). He published over 155 peer-reviewed manuscripts (5700+ citations, h-index 45). He is focused in devising new immune-based preventive and therapeutic strategies for autoimmune diseases.

#### **About AurorA-TT**

AurorA-TT ([www.aurora-tt.com](http://www.aurora-tt.com)) is a Technology Transfer Company established in 2017 based in Milan, Italy with the mission to identify promising scientific breakthroughs from academic and research centers in Italy and partner with academia, research institutions and biotech companies based globally. AurorA-TT includes 5 co-founders with more than 115 years of cumulative experience and track record in technology transfer, venture capital, basic research, project/drug selection and development, market access and launch of pharmaceutical and biotechnology products, spanning from small molecules to advanced therapy medicinal products: Guido Guidi, MD, Chairman, former Head Pharma Region Europe Novartis; Paolo Rizzardi, MD, former General Manager MolMed SpA and Chairman & CEO Altheia Science; Pierluigi Paracchi, Chairman & CEO at Genenta Science and Corporate Consultant at Altheia Science; Gabriele Campi, PhD, former researcher, venture capitalist and technology transfer manager, Project Manager Altheia Science; Edoardo Negroni, MBA, entrepreneur in drug discovery and former pharma executive.

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