



**VASTOX APPOINTS PROFESSOR GEORGE FLEET  
AS CARBOHYDRATE CHEMISTRY CONSULTANT**

**Oxford, UK, 18 May 2006** - VASTox (AIM: VOX) today announces the appointment of Professor George Fleet as specialist consultant for the Company's growing carbohydrate chemistry business.

Professor George Fleet, Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford, is widely acknowledged as one of the world's foremost experts on carbohydrate chemistry. He has published over 400 academic papers and has consulted for many of the leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

Professor Fleet will work with VASTox to provide technical input into both the Company's drug development programmes and growing services business.

Richard Storer, DPhil, Chief Scientific Officer said: "I have worked closely with George for over 25 years in my time at GSK, BioChem Pharma and Idenix. He has always made a valuable contribution to programmes in this complex field of chemistry and brings a depth of knowledge and understanding which is without parallel. I am looking forward to his input both into our in-house programmes and work for VASTox clients."

Steven Lee, PhD, Chief Executive Officer said: "With the recent recruitment of Richard Storer and now the engagement of Professor Fleet, I believe we have one of the best carbohydrate chemistry teams in the industry. Professor Fleet's links and experience within the pharmaceutical industry will be a real asset as we increase our services activities."

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## **About VASTox plc**

VASTox is a chemical genomics technology company that discovers and develops proprietary novel drugs and provides services to the pharmaceutical industry. The company's most advanced drug development programme is focused on developing a new treatment for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy based on the up-regulation of utrophin. A second drug development programme for Spinal Muscular Atrophy is also progressing rapidly. VASTox has three additional programmes focused on osteoarthritis, cancer and tuberculosis that are expected to be out-licensed prior to entering the clinic.

The company's technology platform, which uses zebrafish and fruitflies, has the potential to dramatically decrease the time and cost of drug discovery and development. This is because using whole organisms allows it to carry out high volume, high content screening that delivers data which is highly predictive of the efficacy and toxicity of potential drug compounds in humans. VASTox is growing revenues based on marketing its unique technology platform and its chemistry expertise.

VASTox was formed in January 2003 from the University of Oxford, by some of the UK's foremost scientists who have taken a highly creative approach to the problems involved in drug discovery and who have a proven record in delivering technological excellence. The company listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange in October 2004.

Further information about the company may be accessed at the VASTox website:

[www.vastox.com](http://www.vastox.com)

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Forward-looking statements are based on the Company's current expectations and assumptions regarding our business, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, by their nature, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. The Company's actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. The Company cautions you therefore that you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements as statements of historical fact or as guarantees or assurances of future performance. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include [factors included in this presentation] and regional, national, global political, economic, business, competitive, market and regulatory conditions.