
WAIVERS AND EXEMPTION

In preparation for the [REDACTED], we have sought the following waivers from strict compliance with the relevant provisions of the Listing Rules and exemption from strict compliance with the relevant provisions of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance.

MANAGEMENT PRESENCE IN HONG KONG

According to Rules 8.12 and 19A.15 of the Listing Rules, our Company must have sufficient management presence in Hong Kong. This normally means that at least two of our executive Directors must be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong.

Since most of our business operations are not principally located, managed or conducted in Hong Kong, and our Directors consider that the relocation of our executive Directors to Hong Kong or the appointment of additional executive Directors who will be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong would not be beneficial to, or appropriate for, our Company and therefore would not be in the best interests of our Company and our Shareholders as a whole, our Company does not, and, for the foreseeable future, will not, have two executive Directors who are ordinarily resident in Hong Kong for the purpose of satisfying the requirements under Rules 8.12 and 19A.15 of the Listing Rules.

Accordingly, we have applied to the Stock Exchange for, and the Stock Exchange [has granted], a waiver from strict compliance with the requirements under Rules 8.12 and 19A.15 of the Listing Rules, on the basis that our Company implements the following arrangements to ensure there is an effective channel of communication between our Company and the Stock Exchange:

- (i) **Authorized representatives:** both of our Company's authorized representatives, Dr. Shi, the chairperson of the Board, an executive Director and our chief executive officer, and Ms. Tsui Ka Yan, one of the joint company secretaries of our Company, will act as our Company's principal channels of communication with the Stock Exchange. Accordingly, the authorized representatives of our Company will be able to meet with the relevant members of the Stock Exchange on reasonable notice and will be readily contactable by telephone, facsimile and/or email.

Each of the authorized representatives of our Company has means of contacting all Directors (including our independent non-executive Directors) promptly at all times as and when the Stock Exchange proposes to contact a Director with respect to any matter;

- (ii) **Directors:** each Director has provided their mobile phone number, office phone number, fax number (if any) and e-mail address to the authorized representatives of our Company and the Stock Exchange, and in the event that any Director expects to travel or otherwise be out of the office, they will provide the phone number of the place of their accommodation to the authorized representatives.

Each of our Directors not ordinarily residing in Hong Kong possesses or can apply for valid travel documents to visit Hong Kong and will be able to meet with the relevant members of the Stock Exchange within a reasonable period of time;

- (iii) **Compliance Advisor:** we have appointed Somerley Capital Limited as our Compliance Advisor, in compliance with Rule 3A.19 of the Listing Rules, who will, among other things and in addition to the authorized representatives and our Directors, also act as an additional channel of communication with the Stock Exchange from the [REDACTED] to the date when our Company complies with Rule 13.46 of the Listing Rules in respect of its financial results for the first full financial year immediately following the [REDACTED]. Pursuant to the note to Rule 3A.23 of the Listing Rules, the Compliance Advisor will have access at all times to our authorized representatives, our Directors and other officers. We shall also ensure that our authorized representatives, Directors and other officers will promptly provide such information and assistance as the Compliance Advisor may need or may reasonably require in connection with the performance of the Compliance Advisor's duties as set forth in Chapter 3A of the Listing Rules. We shall ensure that there are adequate and efficient means of communication among our Company, our authorized representatives, our Directors, and other officers and the Compliance Advisor, and will keep the Compliance Advisor fully informed of all communications and dealings between the Stock Exchange and us.

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Any meeting between the Stock Exchange and our Directors will be arranged through the authorized representatives or the Compliance Advisor or directly with our Directors within a reasonable time frame. We will inform the Stock Exchange promptly in respect of any changes in our authorized representatives and/or our Compliance Advisor; and

- (iv) **Legal advisors:** we will also retain legal advisors to advise on on-going compliance requirements as well as other issues arising under the Listing Rules and other applicable laws and regulations of Hong Kong after the [REDACTED].

JOINT COMPANY SECRETARIES

Pursuant to Rules 3.28 and 8.17 of the Listing Rules, our Company must appoint a company secretary, who, by virtue of their academic or professional qualifications or relevant experience, is, in the opinion of the Stock Exchange, capable of discharging the functions of the company secretary.

Pursuant to Note 1 to Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules, the Stock Exchange considers the following academic or professional qualifications to be acceptable:

- (i) a member of The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute;
- (ii) a solicitor or barrister as defined in the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Chapter 159 of the Laws of Hong Kong); and
- (iii) a certified public accountant as defined in the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Chapter 50 of the Laws of Hong Kong).

Pursuant to Note 2 to Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules, in assessing “relevant experience,” the Stock Exchange will consider the individual’s:

- (i) length of employment with the issuer and other issuers and the roles they played;
- (ii) familiarity with the Listing Rules and other relevant law and regulations including the Securities and Futures Ordinance, the Companies Ordinance, the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance and the Takeovers Code;
- (iii) relevant training taken and/or to be taken in addition to the minimum requirement of taking not less than 15 hours of relevant professional training in each financial year under Rule 3.29 of the Listing Rules; and
- (iv) professional qualifications in other jurisdictions.

Pursuant to paragraph 13 of Chapter 3.10 of the Listing Guide, the Stock Exchange will consider a waiver application by an issuer in relation to Rules 3.28 and 8.17 of the Listing Rules based on the specific facts and circumstances. Factors that will be considered by the Stock Exchange include:

- (i) whether the issuer has principal business activities primarily outside Hong Kong;
- (ii) whether the issuer was able to demonstrate the need to appoint a person who does not have the Acceptable Qualification (as defined under paragraph 11 of Chapter 3.10 of the Listing Guide) nor Relevant Experience (as defined under paragraph 11 of Chapter 3.10 of the Listing Guide) as a company secretary; and
- (iii) why the directors consider the individual to be suitable to act as the issuer’s company secretary.

Further, pursuant to paragraph 13 of Chapter 3.10 of the Listing Guide, such waiver, if granted, will be for a fixed period of time (the “**Waiver Period**”) and on the following conditions:

- (i) the proposed company secretary must be assisted by a person who possesses the qualifications or experience as required under Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules and is appointed as a joint company secretary throughout the Waiver Period; and

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- (ii) the waiver can be revoked if there are material breaches of the Listing Rules by the issuer.

We have appointed Mr. Jin Wenqing (金文卿) as our joint company secretary with effect from the [REDACTED]. Our Group’s key operations and principal business activities are conducted outside of Hong Kong. We believe that the company secretary role requires a person to be deeply familiar with our operations and the specific industry context, and to be able to cultivate strong relationships with both the Board and the management. It would be in the best interests of our Company and our corporate governance to have as its joint company secretary a person such as Mr. Jin who has been with our Company since June 2015. As the executive vice president and the secretary of the Board, Mr. Jin is deeply familiar with our operations and is able to cultivate strong relationships with both the Board and the management. Our Directors believe that Mr. Jin’s intimate knowledge of our Company and operations is essential for the performance of company secretary duties in the most effective and efficient manner. For biographical details, see “Directors and Senior Management.”

Since Mr. Jin does not possess the qualifications stipulated in Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules, he is not able to fulfill the requirements to act as a company secretary of a [REDACTED] stipulated under the Listing Rules. To support Mr. Jin in performing the duties of company secretary, we have appointed Ms. Tsui Ka Yan, who is an associate of both The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute (formerly known as The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries) and The Chartered Governance Institute in the United Kingdom and meets the requirements under Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules, as a joint company secretary to provide assistance for a three-year period from the [REDACTED] so as to enable Mr. Jin to acquire the relevant experience as required under Note 2 to Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules to duly discharge his duties.

Accordingly, we have applied to the Stock Exchange for, and the Stock Exchange [has granted], a waiver from strict compliance with the requirements under Rules 3.28 and 8.17 of the Listing Rules in relation to the appointment of Mr. Jin as our joint company secretary. Pursuant to the Chapter 3.10 of the Listing Guide, such waiver has been granted on the conditions that:

- (i) Ms. Tsui is appointed as a joint company secretary to assist Mr. Jin in discharging his functions as a company secretary and in gaining the relevant experience under Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules;
- (ii) our Company will further ensure that Mr. Jin has access to the relevant training and support to enable him to familiarize himself with the Listing Rules and the duties required of a company secretary of an [REDACTED] on the Stock Exchange. Our Hong Kong legal advisors have provided training to Mr. Jin on the principal requirements of the Listing Rules and the Hong Kong laws and regulations applicable to our Company after the [REDACTED]. In addition, Mr. Jin will endeavor to familiarize himself with the Listing Rules, including any updates thereto, during the three-year period from the [REDACTED];
- (iii) Mr. Jin has confirmed that he will attend no less than 15 hours of training courses on the Listing Rules, corporate governance, information disclosure, investor relations as well as the functions and duties of a company secretary of a Hong Kong [REDACTED] during each financial year as required under Rule 3.29 of the Listing Rules;
- (iv) before the expiry of Mr. Jin’s initial term of appointment as the company secretary of our Company, our Company will evaluate his experience in order to determine if he has acquired the qualifications required under Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules; and
- (v) this waiver will be revoked immediately if and when Ms. Tsui ceases to provide such assistance during the three-year period, and we undertake to re-apply to the Stock Exchange for a waiver in the event that Ms. Tsui ceases to meet the requirements under Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules or otherwise ceases to serve as a joint company secretary of our Company. In addition, this waiver will be revoked with immediate effect in the event of any material breaches of the Listing Rules by our Company.

Prior to the end of the three-year period, we will demonstrate and seek the confirmation from the Stock Exchange that Mr. Jin, having had the benefit of Ms. Tsui during the three years, has attained the relevant experience under Note 2 to Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules and is capable of discharging the functions of our company secretary so that a further waiver would not be necessary.

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EXEMPTION IN RESPECT OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF OUR COMPANY

According to section 342(1)(b) of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, this document shall include an accountant's report which contains the matters specified in the Third Schedule to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance.

According to paragraph 27 of Part I of the Third Schedule to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, our Company is required to include in this document a statement as to the gross trading income or sales turnover (as the case may be) of our Company during each of the three financial years immediately preceding the issue of this document as well as an explanation of the method used for the computation of such income or turnover and a reasonable breakdown of the more important trading activities.

According to paragraph 31 of Part II of the Third Schedule to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, our Company is required to include in this document a report prepared by our Company's auditor with respect to profits and losses of our Company in respect of each of the three financial years immediately preceding the issue of the document and the assets and liabilities of our Company at the last date to which the financial statements were prepared.

According to section 342A(1) of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, the SFC may issue, subject to such conditions (if any) as the SFC thinks fit, a certificate of exemption from strict compliance with the relevant requirements under the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance if, having regard to the circumstances, the SFC considers that the exemption will not prejudice the interests of the [REDACTED] and strict compliance with any or all of such requirements would be irrelevant or unduly burdensome, or is otherwise unnecessary or inappropriate.

According to Rule 4.04(1) of the Listing Rules, the Accountants' Report contained in this document must include, *inter alia*, the results of our Company in respect of each of the three financial years immediately preceding the issue of this document or such shorter period as may be acceptable to the Stock Exchange.

According to Rule 18A.06 of the Listing Rules, an eligible biotech company shall comply with Rule 4.04 of the Listing Rules modified so that references to "three financial years" or "three years" in that rule shall instead refer to "two financial years" or "two years," as the case may be.

Accordingly, we have applied to the SFC for a certificate of exemption from strict compliance with the requirements under section 342(1)(b) of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance in relation to paragraph 27 of Part I and paragraph 31 of Part II of the Third Schedule to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance on the following grounds:

- (i) we are a biotechnology company focused on developing improved therapies in the fields of metabolic, inflammatory and cardiovascular diseases, and fall within the scope of biotech company as defined under Chapter 18A of the Listing Rules;
- (ii) the Accountants' Report for the two years ended December 31, 2024 and 2025 has been disclosed in Appendix I to this document in accordance with Rule 18A.06 of the Listing Rules;
- (iii) notwithstanding that the financial results set out in this document are only for the two years ended December 31, 2024 and 2025 in accordance with Chapter 18A of the Listing Rules, other information required to be disclosed under the Listing Rules and requirements under the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance has been adequately disclosed in this document pursuant to the relevant requirements;
- (iv) as Chapter 18A of the Listing Rules provides track record period of two years for biotech companies in terms of financial disclosure, strict compliance with the requirements of section 342(1)(b) of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance in relation to paragraph 27 of Part I and paragraph 31 of Part II of the Third Schedule to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance would be unduly burdensome for our Company as this would require additional work to be performed by us and our reporting accountants; and

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- (v) our Directors are of the view that the Accountants’ Report covering the two years ended December 31, 2024 and 2025, together with other disclosures in this document, has already provided the potential [REDACTED] with adequate and reasonably up-to-date information in the circumstances to form a view on the track record of our Company, and our Directors confirm that all information which is necessary for the [REDACTED] to make an informed assessment of our Company’s business, assets and liabilities, financial position, trading position, management and prospects has been included in this document. Therefore, the exemption would not prejudice the interests of the [REDACTED].

The SFC [has granted] a certificate of exemption under section 342A of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance exempting our Company from strict compliance with section 342(1)(b) in relation to paragraph 27 of Part I and paragraph 31 of Part II of the Third Schedule to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance on the conditions that (i) particulars of the exemption are set out in this document, and (ii) this document will be issued on or before [REDACTED].