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**Zhaoke Ophthalmology Limited** 

兆科眼科有限公司 (Incorporated in the British Virgin Islands with limited liability and continued in the Cayman Islands) (Stock Code: 6622)

## INSIDE INFORMATION – MARKETING AUTHORIZATION FOR BIMATOPROST TIMOLOL EYE DROP (晶贝莹®) OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL MEDICAL PRODUCTS ADMINISTRATION

This announcement is made by the board of directors (the "**Board**") of Zhaoke Ophthalmology Limited (the "**Company**") pursuant to Rule 13.09 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "**Listing Rules**") and the Inside Information Provisions (as defined under the Listing Rules) under Part XIVA of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the laws of Hong Kong).

The Board is pleased to announce that the marketing authorization for Bimatoprost Timolol eye drop (晶贝莹<sup>®</sup>), a drug researched, developed and manufactured by the Company for the treatment of glaucoma, has been obtained from the National Medical Products Administration ("**NMPA**"). This drug is used to lower the intraocular pressure ("**IOP**") in patients with primary open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension who do not respond sufficiently to  $\beta$ -blockers or prostaglandin analogues ("**PGA**").

Bimatoprost Timolol eye drop (晶贝莹<sup>®</sup>) is the first generic drug of Bimatoprost Timolol eye drop for the treatment of glaucoma/ocular hypertension in China. Manufactured on the production line that has been certified in a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) compliance check, this product has already passed consistency evaluation.

Bimatoprost Timolol eye drop is a drug combination that comprises Bimatoprost and Timolol maleate. It lowers IOP by using three mechanisms, namely increasing uveoscleral and trabecular outflow of aqueous humor as well as reducing the production of aqueous humor in the ciliary body. It is more effective in lowering IOP and maintaining stable post-treatment IOP as compared with other drug combinations. Furthermore, the rate of Bimatoprost Timolol eye drop resulting in an adverse reaction, namely conjunctival hyperemia, is significantly lower than that of monotherapy /unfixed-dose combination.

The marketing authorization for Bimatoprost Timolol eye drop marks a major milestone of the Company in the development of drug treatment for glaucoma and begins a new chapter in the Company's glaucoma franchise currently comprised of a total of seven drugs and one device for home use IOP measurement.

Being the first generic drug of the Company to be authorized by NMPA, Bimatoprost Timolol eye drop also signifies the commencement of the commercialization of the Company's pipeline products.

## ABOUT BIMATOPROST TIMOLOL

Bimatoprost Timolol is a fixed-combination eye drop with Bimatoprost and  $\beta$ -blocker for lowering IOP. Bimatoprost, a PGA, can be used as monotherapy for primary open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. Timolol is a non-selective  $\beta$ -adrenergic receptor blocker that can lower the IOP in primary open-angle glaucoma and angle-closure glaucoma cases.

Bimatoprost Timolol eye drop provides an alternative treatment for primary open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension patients with poor or inadequate response to monotherapy. With three mechanisms to lower IOP, this drug can achieve target IOP in patients who have inadequate response to either PGA or  $\beta$ -blocker eye drops.

## ABOUT GLAUCOMA

According to China Insights Consultancy (CIC), glaucoma, the second-leading cause of blindness worldwide, is a chronic and progressive disease associated with high IOP, resulting in optic nerve damage. IOP is determined by the balance of the rate of fluid production versus fluid drainage in the eye. Generally speaking, all glaucoma cases are primary glaucoma and can be classified into two types, namely open-angle glaucoma and angle-closure glaucoma. In China, approximately 40% of the primary glaucoma cases are open-angle glaucoma.

China has the world's largest number of glaucoma patients, accounting for approximately a quarter of all glaucoma patients worldwide. It is estimated that the number of glaucoma patients in China was 21.8 million in 2020 and 5.67 million patients will go blind. In addition, the diagnosis rate of glaucoma is expected to increase significantly from 20.0% in 2019 to 60.6% in 2030.

Shareholders of the Company and potential investors are reminded to exercise caution when dealing in the shares of the Company.

By order of the Board Zhaoke Ophthalmology Limited Dr. Li Xiaoyi Chairman

Hong Kong, February 20, 2023

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Dr. Li Xiaoyi and Mr. Dai Xiangrong as executive directors; Ms. Leelalertsuphakun Wanee, Ms. Tiantian Zhang, Ms. Cai Li and Mr. Chen Yu as non-executive directors; and Mr. Wong Hin Wing, Prof. Lo Yuk Lam and Mr. Liew Fui Kiang as independent non-executive directors.