

March 11, 2015 21:25 UTC

Pioneering Neurologist Ethan Russo, MD, Joins PhYTECS: First Biotech Firm to Develop Consumer Healthcare Products Targeting Endocannabinoid System

LOS ANGELES—([BUSINESS WIRE](#))— [PhYTECS](#), a California biotechnology company that researches and develops consumer healthcare products targeting the body's [endocannabinoid system \(ECS\)](#), today announced that [Dr. Ethan Russo, MD](#), has joined the company as Medical Director. A clinical neurologist and ethnobotanist, Dr. Russo previously served for over a decade as Senior Medical Advisor to GW Pharmaceuticals, where he supervised clinical trials of their lead product, Sativex and pediatric anti-seizure medication, Epidiolex.

"It is a tremendous opportunity to join PhYTECS' team in the Americas, Europe and Israel who are working at the forefront of our scientific understanding of the endocannabinoid system," Russo said. "The [ECS](#) and related lipid signaling networks play a vital role in both health and disease. From appetite to emotional memory to pain to mood, [PhYTECS' researchers](#) have discovered that the body's endocannabinoid system regulates crucial signaling underlying key aspects of human physiology and behavior, perhaps extending to the biochemistry of individual personalities," said Russo.

Prior to GW Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Russo practiced clinical neurology for twenty years. He is Past-President of the [International Cannabinoid Research Society](#) and former Chairman of the [International Association for Cannabinoid Medicines](#). He has authored seven books and over thirty articles ranging from historical uses of plant medicines to modern pharmacological mechanisms, phytopharmaceutical treatment of migraine and chronic pain, and phytocannabinoid-serotonergic and -vanilloid receptor interactions.

[Dr. Raphael Mechoulam](#), Director of Global Research at PhYTECS, professor at the Institute for Drug Research at Hebrew University in Israel, and chair of the PhYTECS Scientific Advisory Board, stated, "Ethan Russo has occupied the pinnacle of the endocannabinoid research community for over a decade. I look forward to our collaboration as PhYTECS explores the profound pharmacological implications of our increasing understanding of the ECS."

About PhYTECS

PhYTECS develops healthcare and nutrition products targeting the endocannabinoid system. PhYTECS researches how the endocannabinoid system regulates and mediates immunity, pain, inflammation, mood, emotion, learning and memory, metabolism, appetite and weight, sleep, embryo development, neuroprotection and stress relief. PhYTECS works with compounds derived from over twenty different plant genera that produce molecules that influence lipid signaling and physiological function throughout the body. www.phytecs.com

Contacts

PhYTECS
Gary Hiller, 310-695-1225

Source: PhYTECS

View this news release online at:
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20150311006505/en>