



## **Agilis Announces Appointment of Dr. Paola Leone to Scientific Advisory Board**

**New York, NY, October 7, 2014** – Agilis Biotherapeutics, LLC, a synthetic biology-based company focused on developing DNA-based therapeutics for rare genetic diseases, announced today the addition of Professor Paola Leone, PhD, Director of the Cell and Gene Therapy Center, Department of Cell Biology, Rowan University, School of Osteopathic Medicine, to its Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Leone is a leading researcher in the field of gene therapy and at the forefront of efforts focused on identifying the pathophysiologic mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases, promoting brain repair and the preventing neurological disease progression.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Leone, a pioneer in gene targeting who brings a wealth of experience in the development of gene therapies for neurological diseases,” said Dr. Mark Pykett, Chief Executive Officer of Agilis. “As represented by Dr. Leone’s landmark clinical work gene therapy, her passion to bring innovative therapies to patients and her expertise with transformative approaches makes her a perfect addition to our Agilis team.”

“I look forward to joining the Agilis team to advance the Friedreich’s ataxia program and therapies for other rare genetic disorders. I believe the Company’s innovative approaches provide an exciting prospect to change the course of medicine for patients and the medical community,” said Dr. Leone.

Dr. Leone joined Rowan in 2007 and is currently the Director of the Cell and Gene Therapy Center. During the past two decades, she has built expertise in the research and development of novel therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases, including extensive translational and clinical experience. Dr. Leone received federal approval and sponsorship to conduct the first clinical trial in history using gene therapy for a neurodegenerative disease. This benchmark trial has been widely cited and implemented worldwide by other investigators. She is currently advancing research in a broad range of neurodegenerative diseases, including Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Alzheimer’s, Multiple Sclerosis and Traumatic Brain Injury. Prior to Rowan, she held various positions ranging from Research Scientist at the Department of Neurosurgery, Gene Therapy & Neurogenetics Laboratories at Yale University to Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Neuroradiology, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She has served as a conference organizer and chair of several neurodegenerative disease conferences and symposia and is a distinguished member of numerous scientific and data & safety monitoring advisory boards. In addition, she

has authored or co-authored over 65 scientific publications and is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the UNESCO Career Achievement Award, the Canavan Research Scientist of the Year Award and the Excellence in Medicine Award by the Edward J. III Foundation. She earned her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Padua, Italy.

### **About Agilis Biotherapeutics, LLC**

Agilis Biotherapeutics, LLC, is a biotechnology company focused on designing and engineering best-in-class DNA-based therapeutics to improve and save the lives of patients affected by life-threatening or fatal rare diseases for which there are limited or no treatment options. We believe that engineered DNA-based therapeutics provide the ability to target underlying disease mechanisms with tightly-controlled multigenic modalities leading to “functional cures” for patients with these diseases.

We invite you to visit our website at [www.agilisbio.com](http://www.agilisbio.com)

### **Safe Harbor Statement**

Some of the statements made in this press release are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based upon our current expectations and projections about future events and generally relate to our plans, objectives and expectations for the development of our business. Although management believes that the plans and objectives reflected in or suggested by these forward-looking statements are reasonable, all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and actual future results may be materially different from the plans, objectives and expectations expressed in this press release.

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