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*news release*

## **PAUL J. HASTINGS NAMED CEO OF QLT**

**For Immediate Release**

**December 19, 2001**

VANCOUVER, CANADA — The Board of Directors of QLT Inc. (NASDAQ: QLT; TSE: QLT) today announced the appointment of Paul J. Hastings, 41, as CEO, President and Director, effective February 17, 2002, succeeding Dr. Julia Levy. Dr. Levy will continue in a scientific advisory role and as a member of the Company's Board of Directors.

"After a long and active search we are very fortunate to have found someone we consider the ideal candidate," said Mr. Duff Scott, Chairman. "Paul's extensive global experience in the industry, both big pharma and biotechnology, make him an outstanding CEO for the next phase of QLT's development."

As President, CEO and a Director of Axys Pharmaceuticals, Mr. Hastings was most recently responsible for all aspects of the organization including leading the strategic initiative resulting in the acquisition of Axys by Celera Corporation. Since starting his career in 1984 with Hoffman La Roche, Mr. Hastings has held various positions of increasing responsibility with notable biotech and pharmaceutical companies including: Vice-President, Marketing and Sales and European General Manager, Synergen Inc.; Vice President, Global Marketing, Genzyme Corporation; President, Genzyme Therapeutics Europe; President, Genzyme Therapeutics Worldwide; and President, Chiron BioPharmaceuticals.

"I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to be CEO of one of the few profitable biotech companies in the world," said Mr. Hastings. "QLT is in an excellent position with a breakthrough product on the market, a great strategic partner in Novartis, a balanced portfolio of pipeline products and the financial strength to support further strategic collaborations and licensing. I am very much looking forward to being part of building on the great success of this company."

"I am delighted that Paul has agreed to assume the leadership of QLT," said Dr. Levy. "I am confident that his leadership, experience and strength in commercial development will allow QLT to achieve its full potential and look forward to working with him to achieve this goal."

Dr. Levy co-founded QLT in 1981 and became President and Chief Executive Officer in 1996. Dr. Levy is a Professor Emeritus of the University of British Columbia and is also a member of the board of directors of a number of biotech companies and non-profit organizations.

QLT Inc. is a world leader in photodynamic therapy, a field of medicine utilizing light-activated drugs in the treatment of disease. QLT's innovative science has led to the development and commercialization of breakthrough treatments utilizing this and other technologies for applications in ophthalmology and oncology. For more information, you are invited to visit QLT's web site at [www.qltinc.com](http://www.qltinc.com).

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QLT Inc. is listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market under the trading symbol "QLTI" and on The Toronto Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "QLT."

Certain statements in this press release constitute "forward-looking statements" of QLT within the meaning of the *Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995*, which involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. These statements are only predictions and actual events or results may differ materially. Factors that could cause such actual events or results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements to differ materially from any future results express or implied by such statements include, but are not limited to: factors described in detail in QLT's Annual Information Form on Form 10-K, forthcoming quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and QLT is not obligated to update such information to reflect later events or developments.