



QLT Inc.

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news release

BILL NEWELL NAMED SENIOR VP AND CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER OF QLT

For Immediate Release

May 28, 2002

VANCOUVER, CANADA — QLT Inc. (NASDAQ: QLTI; TSE: QLT) announced today the appointment of Bill Newell as Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer of QLT.

“We are very excited to have Bill join the QLT team,” said Paul Hastings, QLT’s president and CEO. “As Chief Business Officer, Bill will lead our corporate development and legal initiatives. These are expected to be key drivers in QLT’s continued success and Bill’s extensive experience in this area gives us great confidence.”

In his prior position as Senior Vice President, Corporate and Business Development of Celera Genomics (formerly Axys Pharmaceuticals), Mr. Newell was most recently responsible for all deal-related activities for Axys, including mergers and acquisitions, partnering/licensing, financing and spin-out deals. He was also part of the group that led the strategic initiative resulting in the acquisition of Axys by Celera Genomics. Mr. Newell started his career in 1983 as an Associate with McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, LLP, and became a Partner in 1990. In his legal practice, Mr. Newell was actively involved in many strategic transactions, involving both publicly traded and privately held companies. Since joining Axys in 1998, Mr. Newell has held various positions of increasing responsibility including Vice President, General Counsel, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Senior Vice President, Corporate and Business Development, and General Counsel.

Mr. Newell received his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1983 and his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College in 1979.

Mr. Newell begins his new position effective June 10, 2002.

QLT Inc. is a global biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative therapies to treat cancer, eye diseases and immune disorders.

Combining expertise in ophthalmology, oncology and photodynamic therapy, QLT has commercialized two products to date, including Visudyne[®] therapy which is the largest selling ophthalmology product ever launched. For more information, you are invited to visit QLT’s web site at www.qltinc.com.

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Visudyne® is a trademark of Novartis AG.

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 and Canadian securities regulatory authorities. Forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and QLT is not obligated to update such information to reflect later events or developments.