



## SVF Vaccines Announces CEO Transition

**Stockholm, Sweden; November 15, 2024.**

SVF Vaccines AB, a Swedish R&D company focusing on the discovery and development of vaccines to treat and prevent life-threatening viral infections, today announces that Dr Richard Bethell has decided to step down as CEO of the company in order to pursue other professional interests. The board of SVF Vaccines has appointed Dr Gaston Picchio as acting CEO with effect from today, Friday November 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr Bethell will remain associated with the company in an advisory role.

Dr Picchio brings more than 30 years of experience in clinical virology, working at the Scripps Research Institute, Janssen (J&J) and Arbutus Biopharma. During his tenure at Janssen he was involved in the development and approval of antivirals and vaccines for HIV, HCV and Zika. More recently, in his role of chief development officer at Arbutus, he led the development of novel therapeutic combinations aimed at finding a cure for chronic hepatitis B.

“On behalf of the board, I would like to thank Richard for the work he has done as CEO, establishing financial processes for the company and in advancing our therapeutic vaccine for Hepatitis B and D, SVF-001, to be ready to start IND-enabling studies. We are very pleased that he wishes to continue to act as an advisor to the company”, said Dr John Öhd, chair of the board of directors of SVF Vaccines. “I’m delighted to welcome Gaston to SVF Vaccines. We are convinced that his extensive expertise in human virology and industry track record bringing anti-infective products to market will be instrumental to continue to advance SVF Vaccines, through its next phase of growth”, he continued.

“I am delighted to join SVF Vaccines to help continue to advance its portfolio of novel vaccines candidates that have been designed to address important unmet medical needs, such as chronic HBV infection. I have always been passionate about vaccines since they are one of humanity’s greatest medical achievements, so I am particularly excited to take on this role”, said Gaston Picchio.

### About SVF Vaccines

SVF Vaccines is a spin-out from the Karolinska Institutet whose aim is to discover and develop tomorrow’s vaccines for the prevention and treatment of serious infectious diseases. Its current portfolio is made up of a therapeutic vaccine for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B, SVF-001, which is in preclinical development, its universal Covid-19 prophylactic vaccine, SVF-002, and two further projects in the discovery phase including a prophylactic vaccine against Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever.

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