

CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF CIPHER PHARMACEUTICALS INC.

GENERAL

1. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

1.1 Purpose

The primary purpose of the Committee is to assist Board oversight of:

- (a) the integrity of the Corporation's financial statements and of the accounting and financial reporting practices and procedures of the Corporation;
- (b) the adequacy of the internal and accounting controls and procedures of the Corporation;
- (c) the External Auditor's qualifications and independence;
- (d) the performance of the Corporation's internal audit function, if any and the External Auditor; and
- (e) the Corporation's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, to the extent that such requirements are relevant to the foregoing.

2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

2.1 Definitions

In this Charter:

- (a) **"Board"** means the Board of Directors of the Corporation;
- (b) **"Chair"** means the chair of the Committee;
- (c) **"Committee"** means the audit committee of the Board;
- (d) **"Corporation"** means Cipher Pharmaceuticals Inc.;
- (e) **"Directors"** means the directors of the Corporation;
- (f) **"External Auditor"** means the Corporation's independent auditor; and
- (g) **"IFRS"** means International Financial Reporting Standards.

Any words or terms with initial capital letters which are not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed thereto in the charter of the Directors.

2.2 Interpretation

The provisions of this Charter are subject to any Applicable Laws.

CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMITTEE

3. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

3.1 Establishment of the Audit Committee

The Committee is hereby continued with the constitution, function and responsibilities herein set forth.

3.2 Appointment and Removal of Members of the Committee

- (a) *Board Appoints Members.* The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board.
- (b) *Annual Appointments.* The appointment of members of the Committee shall take place annually at the first meeting of the Board after a meeting of the shareholders at which Directors are elected, provided that if the appointment of members of the Committee is not so made, the Directors who are then serving as members of the Committee shall continue as members of the Committee until their successors are appointed.
- (c) *Vacancies.* The Board may appoint a member to fill a vacancy which occurs in the Committee between annual elections of Directors.
- (d) *Removal of Member.* Any member of the Committee may be removed from the Committee by a resolution of the Board.

3.3 Number of Members

The Committee shall consist of three or more Directors.

3.4 Independence of Members

Each member of the Committee shall be independent as defined under Applicable Laws.

3.5 Financial Literacy

- (a) *Financial Literacy Requirement.* Each member of the Committee shall be financially literate or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Committee.
- (b) *Definition of Financial Literacy.* “Financially literate” means the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Corporation’s financial statements.

3.6 Audit Committee Financial Expert

- (a) *Attributes of an Audit Committee Financial Expert.* To the extent possible, the Board shall appoint to the Committee at least one Director who has the following attributes:
 - (i) an understanding of IFRS and financial statements;
 - (ii) ability to assess the general application of such principles in connection with the accounting for estimates, accruals and reserves;
 - (iii) experience preparing, auditing, analyzing or evaluating financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Corporation’s financial statements, or experience actively supervising one or more persons engaged in such activities;
 - (iv) an understanding of internal controls and procedures for financial reporting; and
 - (v) an understanding of audit committee functions.

- (b) *Experience of the Audit Committee Financial Expert.* To the extent possible, the Board shall appoint to the Committee at least one Director who acquired the attributes in (a) above through:
- (i) education and experience as a principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller, public accountant or auditor or experience in one or more positions that involve the performance of similar functions (or such other qualification as the Board interprets such qualification in its business judgment);
 - (ii) experience actively supervising a principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller, public accountant, auditor or person performing similar functions;
 - (iii) experience overseeing or assessing the performance of companies or public accountants with respect to the preparation, auditing or evaluation of financial statements; or
 - (iv) other relevant experience.

4. COMMITTEE CHAIR

4.1 Board to Appoint Chair

The Board shall appoint the Chair from the members of the Committee (or, if it fails to do so, the members of the Committee shall appoint the Chair from among its members).

4.2 Chair to be Appointed Annually

The appointment of the Committee's Chair shall take place annually at the first meeting of the Board after a meeting of the members at which Directors are elected, provided that if the designation of Chair is not so made, the Director who is then serving as Chair shall continue as Chair until his or her successor is appointed.

5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

5.1 Quorum

A quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of its members.

5.2 Secretary

The Chair shall designate from time to time a person who may, but need not, be a member of the Committee, to be Secretary of the Committee.

5.3 Time and Place of Meetings

The time and place of the meetings of the Committee, the calling of meetings and the procedure in all things at such meetings shall be determined by the Committee in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation; provided, however, the Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

5.4 In Camera Meetings

As part of each meeting of the Committee at which the Committee recommends that the Board approve the annual audited financial statements or at which the Committee approves the quarterly financial statements, the Committee shall meet separately with each of:

- (a) management;
- (b) the External Auditor; and
- (c) the internal auditor, if any.

5.5 Right to Vote

Each member of the Committee shall have the right to vote on matters that come before the Committee.

5.6 Invitees

The Committee may invite Directors, officers and employees of the Corporation or any other person to attend meetings of the Committee to assist in the discussion and examination of the matters under consideration by the Committee. The External Auditor shall receive notice of each meeting of the Committee and shall be entitled to attend any such meeting at the Corporation's expense.

5.7 Regular Reporting

The Committee shall report to the Board at the Board's next meeting the proceedings at the meetings of the Committee and all recommendations made by the Committee at such meetings.

6. AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEE

6.1 Retaining and Compensating Advisors

The Committee shall have the authority to engage independent counsel and other advisors as the Committee may deem appropriate in its sole discretion and to set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the Committee. The Committee shall not be required to obtain the approval of the Board in order to retain or compensate such consultants or advisors.

6.2 Subcommittees

The Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees if deemed appropriate by the Committee.

6.3 Recommendations to the Board

The Committee shall have the authority to make recommendations to the Board, but shall have no decision-making authority other than as specifically contemplated in this Charter.

7. REMUNERATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7.1 Remuneration of Committee Members

Members of the Committee and the Chair shall receive such remuneration for their service on the Committee as the Board may determine from time to time.

7.2 Directors' Fees

No member of the Committee may earn fees from the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries other than Directors' fees (which fees may include cash and/or securities or options or other in-kind consideration ordinarily available to Directors, as well as all of the regular benefits that other Directors receive). For greater certainty, no member of the Committee shall accept, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries.

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8. INTEGRITY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8.1 Review and Approval of Financial Information

- (a) *Annual Financial Statements.* The Committee shall review and discuss with management and the External Auditor, the Corporation's audited annual financial statements and related MD&A together

with the report of the External Auditor thereon and, when appropriate, shall recommend to the Board that the Board approve the audited annual financial statements and related MD&A.

- (b) *Interim Financial Statements.* The Committee shall review and discuss with management and the External Auditor and, when appropriate, shall recommend to the Board that the Board approve the Corporation's interim unaudited financial statements and related MD&A.

- (c) *Material Public Financial Disclosure.* The Committee shall discuss with management and the External Auditor:

- (i) the types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made in connection with earnings press releases,
- (ii) financial information and earnings guidance (if any) to be provided to analysts, investors and rating agencies, and
- (iii) press releases containing financial information (paying particular attention to any use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-IFRS information),

and, when appropriate, shall recommend to the Board that the Board approve any such material financial disclosure prior to its release to the public.

- (d) *Procedures for Review.* The Committee shall be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation's disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Corporation's financial statements (other than financial statements, MD&A and earnings press releases, which are dealt with elsewhere in this Charter) and shall periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures.

- (e) *Accounting Treatment.* The Committee shall review and discuss with management and the External Auditor:

- (i) major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations including any significant changes in the Corporation's selection or application of accounting principles and major issues as to the adequacy of the Corporation's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies;
- (ii) analyses prepared by management and/or the External Auditor setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative IFRS methods on the financial statements;
- (iii) the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures on the Corporation's financial statements;
- (iv) the management certifications of the financial statements as required by applicable securities laws in Canada or otherwise; and
- (v) pension plan financial statements, if any.

9. EXTERNAL AUDITOR

9.1 External Auditor

- (a) *Authority with Respect to External Auditor.* The Committee shall be directly responsible for the nomination, compensation and oversight of the work of the External Auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation. In the discharge of this responsibility, the Committee shall:

- (i) have sole responsibility for recommending to the Board the person to be proposed to the Corporation's shareholders for appointment as External Auditor for the above-described purposes as well as the responsibility for recommending such External Auditor's compensation and determining at any time whether the Board should recommend to the Corporation's shareholders whether the incumbent External Auditor should be removed from office;
 - (ii) review the terms of the External Auditor's engagement, discuss the audit fees with the External Auditor and be solely responsible for approving such audit fees; and
 - (iii) require the External Auditor to confirm in its engagement letter each year that the External Auditor is accountable to, and shall report directly to, the Committee as the representative of shareholders.
- (b) *Independence.* The Committee shall satisfy itself as to the independence of the External Auditor. As part of this process the Committee shall:
 - (i) assure the regular rotation of the lead audit partner as required by law and consider whether, in order to ensure continuing independence of the External Auditor, the Corporation should rotate periodically, the audit firm that serves as External Auditor;
 - (ii) require the External Auditor to submit on a periodic basis to the Committee, a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the External Auditor and the Corporation and its subsidiaries and that the Committee is responsible for actively engaging in a dialogue with the External Auditor with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the External Auditor and for recommending that the Board take appropriate action in response to the External Auditor's report to satisfy itself of the External Auditor's independence;
 - (iii) address non-audit services provided by the External Auditor as described in clause (d) below; and
 - (iv) review and approve the policy setting out the restrictions on the Corporation and its subsidiaries hiring partners, employees and former partners and employees of the Corporation's current or former External Auditor.
- (c) *Issues Between External Auditor and Management.* The Committee shall:
 - (i) review any problems experienced by the External Auditor in conducting the audit, including any restrictions on the scope of the External Auditor's activities or in access to requested information;
 - (ii) review any disagreements with management and, to the extent possible, resolve any disagreements between management and the External Auditor regarding financial reporting; and
 - (iii) review with the External Auditor:
 - (A) any accounting adjustments that were proposed by the External Auditor, but were not made by management;
 - (B) any communications between the audit team and audit firm's national office respecting significant auditing or accounting issues presented by the engagement;
 - (C) the performance of the Corporation's internal audit function and internal auditors.

- (d) *Non-Audit Services.*
- (i) The Committee shall either:
 - (A) approve any non-audit services provided by the External Auditor or the external auditor of any subsidiary of the Corporation to the Corporation (including its subsidiaries); or
 - (B) adopt specific policies and procedures for the engagement of non-audit services, provided that such pre-approval policies and procedures are detailed as to the particular service, the Committee is informed of each non-audit service and the procedures do not include delegation of the Committee's responsibilities to management.
 - (ii) The Committee may delegate to one or more members of the Committee the authority to pre-approve non-audit services in satisfaction of the requirement in the previous section, provided that such member or members must present any non-audit services so approved to the full Committee at its first scheduled meeting following such pre-approval.
 - (iii) The Committee shall instruct management to promptly bring to its attention any services performed by the External Auditor which were not recognized by the Corporation at the time of the engagement as being non-audit services.
- (e) *Evaluation of External Auditor.* The Committee shall evaluate the External Auditor each year, and present its conclusions to the Board. In connection with this evaluation, the Committee shall:
- (i) review and evaluate the performance of the lead partner of the External Auditor;
 - (ii) obtain the opinions of management and of the persons responsible for the Corporation's internal audit function with respect to the performance of the External Auditor; and
 - (iii) obtain and review a report by the External Auditor describing:
 - (A) the External Auditor's internal quality-control procedures;
 - (B) to the extent permitted by Applicable Laws and by the Canadian Public Accountability Board, any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the External Auditor's firm or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the External Auditor's firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues; and
 - (C) all relationships between the External Auditor and the Corporation (for the purposes of assessing the External Auditor's independence).
- (f) *Review of Management's Evaluation and Response.* The Committee shall:
- (i) review management's evaluation of the External Auditor's audit performance;
 - (ii) review the External Auditor's recommendations, and review management's response to and subsequent follow-up on any identified weaknesses;
 - (iii) review management's response to significant internal control recommendations of the internal audit staff and the External Auditor;

- (iv) receive regular reports from management and receive comments from the External Auditor, if any, on:
 - (A) the Corporation's principal financial risks;
 - (B) the systems implemented to monitor those risks; and
 - (C) the strategies (including hedging strategies) in place to manage those risks; and
- (g) recommend to the Board whether any new material strategies presented by management should be considered appropriate and approved.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION

10.1 Internal Auditor

In connection with the Corporation's internal audit function, if any the Committee shall:

- (a) review the terms of reference of the internal auditor, if any, and meet with the internal auditor as the Committee may consider appropriate to discuss any concerns or issues;
- (b) in consultation with the External Auditor and the internal audit group, review the adequacy of the Corporation's internal control structure and procedures designed to ensure compliance with laws and regulations and any special audit steps adopted in light of material deficiencies and controls;
- (c) review the internal control report prepared by management, including management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting; and
- (d) periodically review with the internal auditor, if any, any significant difficulties, disagreements with management or scope restrictions encountered in the course of the work of the internal auditor.

11. COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

11.1 Risk Assessment and Risk Management

The Committee shall discuss the Corporation's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures and shall report to the Board with respect thereto.

11.2 Related Party Transactions

The Committee shall review and approve all related party transactions in which the Corporation is involved or which the Corporation proposes to enter into.

11.3 Whistleblowing Policy

The Committee shall put in place, subject to approval by the Board, procedures for:

- (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation or its subsidiaries regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and
- (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation or its subsidiaries of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

12. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

On an annual basis, the Committee shall follow the process established by the Board and overseen by the Nominating and Governance Committee for reviewing the performance of the Committee.

13. CHARTER REVIEW

The Committee shall review and assess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend to the Board any changes it deems appropriate.

December 28, 2005 and amended August 3, 2006, March 30, 2015, February 23, 2016 and August 10, 2023.