Daniel Pierce Joins Initial Therapeutics as Chief Scientific Officer

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., March 24, 2025 — Initial Therapeutics, a life sciences company discovering and developing new small-molecule therapeutics with a novel platform to selectively modulate translation of pathogenic proteins by the ribosome, has appointed Daniel Pierce, Ph.D., as the company's Chief Scientific Officer, effective today.

"Dan brings to us his deep expertise in the discovery and development of therapies with novel mechanisms that address significant unmet medical need," said Peter DiLaura, President and Chief Executive Officer at Initial. "I'm excited to welcome Dan aboard to help build on the strong scientific and drug discovery foundation that has been established at Initial."

Dr. Pierce is a distinguished drug discovery leader with a career spanning translational medicine, targeted protein degradation, and biomarker-driven clinical development. As Vice President and Head of Translational Medicine at Bristol Myers Squibb's Oncogenesis Thematic Research Center, he led a team of more than 40 scientists to advance nine novel protein degrader therapies from preclinical development to first-in-human trials, with multiple candidates progressing to Phase 3. Previously, at Celgene, he established and led the translational medicine function for the protein homeostasis unit, driving patient selection strategies, novel clinical pharmacodynamic assays, and optimization of dose and schedule. Before Celgene, he served as Director of Discovery Biology at Five Prime Therapeutics, where he developed novel oncology models and screening approaches using the company's proprietary library of secreted proteins. And at Cytokinetics, he played a pivotal role in assay development and lead discovery, inventing new high-throughput screening techniques for oncology and muscle biology drug programs.

Before transitioning to industry, Dr. Pierce established himself as a leading academic researcher in biophysics and cell biology. As an Assistant Professor at Montana State University, he built a laboratory focused on kinesin-family molecular motors and secured competitive NIH and NSF funding for advanced biophysics research. He earned his Ph.D. in Biophysics at Stanford University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California San Francisco. With a strong foundation in molecular biophysics and cutting-edge imaging techniques, he has applied his expertise throughout his career to advance the discovery and development of transformative therapies.

Source: Initial Therapeutics, Inc.