

**MEREO BIOPHARMA GROUP PLC**  
**CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A. Purpose

This Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the “**Code**”) contains general guidelines for conducting the business of Mereo BioPharma Group plc (the “**Company**” or “**we**”) consistent with the highest standards of business ethics. To the extent this Code requires a higher standard than required by commercial practice or applicable laws, rules or regulations, the Company adheres to these higher standards.

This Code applies to all of our directors, officers, and other employees. We refer to all officers and other employees covered by this Code as “Company employees” or simply “employees,” unless the context otherwise requires. In this Code, we refer to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer and controller, or persons performing similar functions, as our “principal financial officers.”

B. Seeking Help and Information

This Code is not intended to be a comprehensive rulebook and cannot address every situation that you may face. If you feel uncomfortable about a situation or have any doubts about whether it is consistent with the Company’s ethical standards, seek help. We encourage you to contact your supervisor for help first. If your supervisor cannot answer your question, if you do not feel comfortable contacting your supervisor, or if you do not have a supervisor, contact the Company’s General Counsel. The Company has also established a [Whistleblowing Hotline](#). You may remain anonymous and will not be required to reveal your identity, although providing your identity may assist the Company in addressing your questions or concerns.

C. Reporting Violations of the Code

All employees and directors have a duty to report any known or suspected violation of this Code, including violations of the laws, rules, regulations or policies that apply to the Company. If you know of or suspect a violation of this Code, immediately report the conduct to your supervisor or the Company’s General Counsel. The Company’s General Counsel will work with you and your supervisor or other appropriate persons to investigate your concern. If you do not feel comfortable reporting the conduct to your supervisor or you do not get a satisfactory response, you may contact the Company’s General Counsel directly. Your supervisor, the Company’s General Counsel and the Company will protect your confidentiality to the extent possible, consistent with applicable laws and the Company’s need to investigate your concern.

It is Company policy that any employee or director who violates this Code will be subject to appropriate discipline, which may include termination of employment or removal from the

Board of Directors of the Company (the “**Board of Directors**”), as appropriate. This determination will be based upon the facts and circumstances of each particular situation. If you are accused of violating this Code, you will be given an opportunity to present your version of the events at issue prior to any determination of appropriate discipline. Employees and directors who violate the law or this Code may expose themselves to substantial civil damages, criminal fines and prison terms. The Company may also face substantial fines and penalties and may incur damage to its reputation and standing in the community. Your conduct as a representative of the Company, if it does not comply with the law or with this Code, can result in serious consequences for both you and the Company.

D. Policy Against Retaliation

The Company prohibits retaliation against an employee or director who, in good faith, seeks help or reports known or suspected violations. Any reprisal or retaliation against a person because that person, in good faith, sought help or filed a report will be subject to disciplinary action, including potential termination of employment. Any retaliation solely for reporting in good faith a violation of the Code will constitute a further violation of the Code, as well as a possible violation of the anti-retaliation provisions of the SEC's Whistleblower Rule, Section 21F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. For more information, please refer to the Company's "Whistleblowing Policy."

E. Waivers of the Code

Any waiver of this Code for our directors, executive officers or other principal financial officers may be made only by our Board of Directors and will be disclosed to the public as required by law or the rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market. Waivers of this Code for other employees may be made only by our Chief Executive Officer or General Counsel and will be reported to our Audit Committee.

**II. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

A. Identifying Potential Conflicts of Interest

Employees, officers and directors must act in the best interests of the Company. You must refrain from engaging in any activity or having a personal interest that presents a “conflict of interest” and should seek to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest occurs when your personal interest interferes with the interests of the Company. A conflict of interest can arise whenever you, as an employee, officer or director, take action or have an interest that prevents you from performing your Company duties and responsibilities honestly, objectively and effectively.

Identifying potential conflicts of interest may not always be clear-cut. The following situations might reasonably be expected to give rise to a conflict of interest and should be identified to, and addressed by, the Company's General Counsel or the Board of Directors:

- Outside Employment. An employee being employed by, serving as a director of,

or providing any services to a company that the individual knows or suspects is a material customer, supplier or competitor of the Company (other than services to be provided as part of an employee's job responsibilities for the Company).

- Improper Personal Benefits. An employee or director obtaining any material (as to him or her) personal benefits or favors because of his or her position with the Company. Please see "Gifts and Entertainment" below for additional guidelines in this area.
- Financial Interests. An employee having an undisclosed "material interest" (ownership or otherwise) in any company that the individual knows or suspects is a material customer, supplier or competitor of the Company and using his or her position to influence a transaction with such company. Whether an employee has a "material interest" will be determined by the Board of Directors in light of all of the circumstances, including consideration of the relationship of the employee to the customer, supplier or competitor, the relationship of the employee to the specific transaction and the importance of the interest to the employee having the interest.
- Loans or Other Financial Transactions. An employee or director obtaining loans or guarantees of personal obligations from, or entering into any other personal financial transaction with, any company that the individual knows or suspects is a material customer, supplier or competitor of the Company. This guideline does not prohibit arms-length transactions with banks, brokerage firms or other financial institutions.
- Service on Boards and Committees. An employee or director serving on a board of directors or trustees or on a committee of any entity (whether profit or not-for-profit) whose interests reasonably would be expected to conflict with those of the Company.
- Actions of Family Members. The actions of family members outside the workplace may also give rise to the conflicts of interest described above because they may influence an employee's or director's objectivity in making decisions on behalf of the Company. For purposes of this Code, "family members" include your spouse or life-partner, brothers, sisters, parents, in-laws and children whether such relationships are by blood or adoption.

For purposes of this Code, a company is a "material" customer if the customer has made payments to the Company in the past year in excess of US\$200,000 or equivalent amount in British pound sterling or other currency or 5% of the customer's gross revenues, whichever is greater. A company is a "material" supplier if the supplier has received payments from the Company in the past year in excess of US\$200,000 or equivalent amount in British pound sterling or other currency or 5% of the supplier's gross revenues, whichever is greater. If you are uncertain whether a particular company is a material customer or supplier, please contact the

Company's General Counsel for assistance.

**B. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The Company requires that employees and directors disclose any situation that reasonably would be expected to give rise to a conflict of interest. If you suspect that you have a situation that could give rise to a conflict of interest, or something that others could reasonably perceive as a conflict of interest, you must report it in writing to your supervisor or the Company's General Counsel, or if you are a director or executive officer, to the Board of Directors. The Company's General Counsel or the Board of Directors, as applicable, will work with you to determine whether you have a conflict of interest and, if so, how best to address it. All transactions that would give rise to a conflict of interest involving a director, executive officer or principal financial officer must be approved by the Board of Directors, and any such approval will not be considered a waiver of this Code.

Directors of the Company also have duties under the Companies Act 2006 to declare to the other directors the nature and extent of his or her interest in (i) a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company and (ii) an existing transaction or arrangement with the Company. Please contact the Company's General Counsel for further details.

**III. CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES**

As an employee or director of the Company, you have an obligation to advance the Company's interests when the opportunity to do so arises. If you discover or are presented with a business opportunity through the use of corporate property or information or because of your position with the Company, you should first present the business opportunity to the Company before pursuing the opportunity in your individual capacity. No employee may use corporate property, information or his or her position with the Company for personal gain or to compete with the Company while employed by us.

You should disclose to your supervisor the terms and conditions of each business opportunity covered by this Code that you wish to pursue. Your supervisor will contact the Company's General Counsel and the appropriate management personnel to determine whether the Company wishes to pursue the business opportunity. If the Company waives its right to pursue the business opportunity, you may pursue the business opportunity on the same terms and conditions as originally proposed and consistent with the other ethical guidelines set forth in this Code.

**IV. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

Employees and directors have access to a variety of confidential information regarding the Company. Confidential information includes all non-public information that might be of use to competitors, or, if disclosed, harmful to the Company or its customers or suppliers. Employees and directors have a duty to safeguard all confidential information of the Company or third parties with which the Company conducts business, except when disclosure is authorized or

legally mandated. Unauthorized disclosure of any confidential information is prohibited. Additionally, employees and directors should take appropriate precautions to ensure that confidential or sensitive business information, whether it is proprietary to the Company or another company, is not communicated within the Company except to employees and directors who have a need to know such information to perform their responsibilities for the Company. An employee's and director's obligation to protect confidential information continues after he or she leaves the Company. Unauthorized disclosure of confidential information could cause competitive harm to the Company or its customers or suppliers and could result in legal liability to you and the Company.

Any questions or concerns regarding whether disclosure of Company information is legally mandated should be promptly referred to the Company's General Counsel.

## **V. COMPETITION AND FAIR DEALING**

All employees should endeavor to deal fairly with fellow employees and with the Company's collaborators, licensors, customers, suppliers and competitors. Employees should not take unfair advantage of anyone through manipulation, concealment, abuse of privileged information, misrepresentation of material facts or any other unfair-dealing practice. Employees should maintain and protect any intellectual property licensed from licensors with the same care as they employ with regard to Company-developed intellectual property. Employees should also handle the nonpublic information of our collaborators, licensors, suppliers and customers responsibly and in accordance with our agreements with them, including information regarding their technology and product pipelines.

## **VI. COMPANY RECORDS**

Accurate and reliable records are crucial to our business. Our records are the basis of our earnings statements, financial reports, regulatory submissions and many other aspects of our business and guide our business decision-making and strategic planning. Company records include financial records, personnel records, records relating to our technology and product development, clinical development, customer collaborations, manufacturing and regulatory submissions and all other records maintained in the ordinary course of our business.

All Company records must be complete, accurate and reliable in all material respects. Each employee and director must follow any formal document retention policy of the Company with respect to Company records within such employee's or director's control. Please contact your supervisor or the Company's General Counsel to obtain a copy of any such policy or with any questions concerning any such policy.

## **VII. PROTECTION AND USE OF COMPANY ASSETS**

Employees should protect the Company's assets and ensure their efficient use for legitimate business purposes only and not for any personal benefit or the personal benefit of anyone else. Theft, carelessness and waste have a direct impact on the Company's financial

performance. The use of Company funds or assets, whether or not for personal gain, for any unlawful or improper purpose is prohibited.

Employees should be aware that Company property includes all data and communications transmitted or received to or by, or contained in, the Company's electronic or telephonic systems. Company property also includes all written communications. Employees and other users of this property should have no expectation of privacy with respect to these communications and data. To the extent permitted by law, the Company has the ability, and reserves the right, to monitor all electronic and telephonic communication. These communications may also be subject to disclosure to law enforcement or government officials.

### **VIII. ACCURACY OF FINANCIAL REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

As a public company we are subject to various securities laws, regulations and reporting obligations. Both applicable law, regulation and stock exchange rules and our policies require the disclosure of accurate and complete information regarding the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations. Inaccurate, incomplete or untimely reporting will not be tolerated and can severely damage the Company and result in legal liability.

The Company's principal financial officers and other employees working in the finance department have a special responsibility to ensure that all of our financial disclosures are full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable. These employees must understand and strictly comply with generally accepted accounting principles and all standards, laws and regulations for accounting and financial reporting of transactions, estimates and forecasts.

### **IX. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

Each employee and director has an obligation to comply with all laws, rules and regulations applicable to the Company's operations. These include, without limitation, laws covering bribery and kickbacks, the development, testing, approval, manufacture, marketing and sale of our products and product candidates, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets, information privacy, insider trading, illegal political contributions, antitrust prohibitions, foreign corrupt practices, offering or receiving gratuities, environmental hazards, employment discrimination or harassment, occupational health and safety, false or misleading financial information or misuse of corporate assets. You are expected to understand and comply with all laws, rules and regulations that apply to your role. If any doubt exists about whether a course of action is lawful, you should seek advice from your supervisor or the Company's General Counsel.

- A. The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, EU and EU Member State Pharmaceutical Laws and Interactions with the Food And Drug Administration, the European Medicines Agency, the UK MHRA and other EU Member State competent authorities.

The Company's products, product candidates and operations are subject to extensive and rigorous regulation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the "**FDA**") under the Federal

Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the “**FFDCA**”) and its implementing regulations, as well as under the laws applicable to pharmaceutical products in the EU and the Member States of the EU, including, but not limited to, Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 (the “**EMA Regulation**”), Directive 2001/83/EC (the “**EU Code on Medicinal Products**”), and the UK and other EU Member State, laws and regulations implementing the provisions of the EU Code on Medicinal Products and other EU legislation applicable to pharmaceutical products (the “**EU Pharmaceutical Laws**”). The FDA and EU Pharmaceuticals Laws regulates many areas of the Company’s operations, including, but not limited to, the development, design, non-clinical and clinical research, manufacturing, safety, efficacy, labeling, packaging, storage, recordkeeping, premarket clearance or approval, adverse event reporting, advertising, promotion, marketing, sale and distribution of our products. The FDA also regulates the export of products manufactured in the United States to international markets. Violation of these laws and regulations can have significant impacts on the Company and its products, including, among other things, severe civil and criminal penalties, adverse publicity for the Company, total or partial suspension of production of a Company product, withdrawal of a Company product from the market or restrictions on our ability to continue selling a Company product, and disciplinary action by the Company against the responsible individuals, up to and including termination of employment.

Company employees with responsibilities in the areas governed by the FFDCA, FDA regulations and EU Pharmaceutical Laws are required to review, understand and comply with applicable laws and regulations. These employees are expected to have a thorough understanding of the laws, regulations and other relevant standards applicable to their job positions, and to comply with those requirements. If any doubt exists regarding whether your job position or a particular course of action is governed by these laws and regulations, you should seek advice immediately from your supervisor and the Company’s General Counsel.

## B. Interactions with the Government

The Company may conduct business with the U.K. and U.S. governments, EU institutions and other bodies, state and local governments and the governments of other countries. The Company is committed to conducting its business with all governments and their representatives with the highest standards of business ethics and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including the special requirements that apply to communications with governmental bodies that may have regulatory authority over our products and operations, such as government contracts and government transactions.

If your job responsibilities include interacting with the government, you are expected to understand and comply with the special laws, rules and regulations that apply to your job position as well as with any applicable standard operating procedures that the Company has implemented. If any doubt exists about whether a course of action is lawful, you should seek advice immediately from your supervisor and the Company’s General Counsel.

In addition to the above, you must obtain approval from the Company’s Chief Executive Officer or General Counsel for any work activity that requires communication with any member or employee of a legislative body or with any government official or employee. Work activities

covered by this policy include meetings with legislators or members of their staffs or with senior executive branch officials on behalf of the Company. Preparation, research and other background activities that are done in support of lobbying communication are also covered by this policy even if the communication ultimately is not made. If any doubt exists about whether a given work activity would be considered covered by this provision, you should seek advice immediately from your supervisor and the Company's General Counsel.

C. Compliance with Antitrust Laws

Antitrust laws are designed to protect consumers and competitors against unfair business practices and to promote and preserve competition. Our policy is to compete vigorously and ethically while complying with all antitrust, monopoly, competition or cartel laws in all countries, states or localities in which the Company conducts business. Violations of antitrust laws may result in severe penalties against the Company and its employees, including potentially substantial fines and criminal sanctions. You are expected to maintain basic familiarity with the antitrust principles applicable to your activities, and you should consult the Company's General Counsel with any questions you may have concerning compliance with these laws.

1. Meetings with Competitors

Employees should exercise caution in meetings with competitors. Any meeting with a competitor may give rise to the appearance of impropriety. As a result, if you are required to meet with a competitor for any reason, you should obtain the prior approval of an executive officer of the Company. You should try to meet with competitors in a closely monitored, controlled environment for a limited period of time. You should create and circulate agendas in advance of any such meetings, and the contents of your meeting should be fully documented.

2. Professional Organizations and Trade Associations

Employees should be cautious when attending meetings of professional organizations and trade associations at which competitors are present. Attending meetings of professional organizations and trade associations is both legal and proper, if such meetings have a legitimate business purpose and are conducted in an open fashion, adhering to a proper agenda. At such meetings, you should not discuss the Company's pricing policies or other competitive terms or any other proprietary, competitively sensitive information. You are required to notify your supervisor or the Company's General Counsel prior to attending any meeting of a professional organization or trade association.

D. Compliance with Insider Trading Laws

Consistent with the Company's Share Dealing Policy, the Company's employees and directors are prohibited from trading in the stock or other securities of the Company while in possession of material nonpublic information or inside information about the Company. In



addition, Company employees and directors are prohibited from recommending, inducing, “tipping” or suggesting that anyone else buy or sell the Company’s stock or other securities on the basis of material non-public information or inside information. Employees and directors who obtain material non-public information or inside information about another company in the course of their duties are prohibited from trading in the stock or securities of the other company while in possession of such information or “tipping” others to trade on the basis of such information. Violation of insider trading and market abuse laws and regulations can result in severe fines and criminal penalties, as well as disciplinary action by the Company, up to and including termination of employment. You are required to read carefully and observe our Insider Dealing Policy, as amended from time to time. Please contact the Company’s General Counsel for a copy of the Insider Dealing Policy or with any questions you may have about insider trading laws.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

The Company places a high value on its credibility and reputation in the community. What is written or said about the Company in the news media and investment community directly impacts our reputation, positively or negatively. Our policy is to provide timely, accurate and complete information in response to public requests (from media, analysts, etc.), consistent with our obligations to maintain the confidentiality of competitive and proprietary information and to prevent selective disclosure of market-sensitive financial data. Therefore, the approval of the Chair of the Board of Directors or the Company’s Chief Executive Officer is required prior to: (a) any press release or other public statement made by or on behalf of the Company; or (b) any statement or response to a public request is made by or on behalf of the Company to any journalist or other member of the media (including in a television, radio or newspaper interview). Please contact the Company’s General Counsel with any questions you may have about disclosure matters.

#### **XI. ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Company is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for its employees and to avoiding adverse impact and injury to the environment and the communities in which it does business. Company employees and directors must comply with all applicable environmental, health and safety laws, regulations and Company standards. It is your responsibility to understand and comply with the laws, regulations and policies that are relevant to your role. Failure to comply with environmental, health and safety laws and regulations can result in civil and criminal liability against you and the Company, as well as disciplinary action by the Company, up to and including termination of employment. You should contact the Company’s General Counsel if you have any questions about the laws, regulations and policies that apply to you.

##### **A. Environment**

All Company employees and directors should strive to conserve resources and reduce

waste and emissions through recycling and other energy conservation measures. You have a responsibility to promptly report any known or suspected violations of environmental laws or any events that may result in a discharge or emission of hazardous materials.

B. Health and Safety

The Company is committed not only to comply with all relevant health and safety laws, but also to conduct business in a manner that protects the safety of its employees. All employees and directors are required to comply with all applicable health and safety laws, regulations and policies relevant to their positions. If you have a concern about unsafe conditions or tasks that present a risk of injury to you, please report these concerns immediately to your supervisor or the Company's General Counsel.

C. Employment Practices

The Company pursues fair employment practices in every aspect of its business. The following is only intended to be a summary of certain of our employment policies and procedures. Copies of the Company's detailed policies, are available on the Company's database. Company employees must comply with all applicable labor and employment laws, including anti-discrimination laws and laws related to freedom of association and privacy. It is your responsibility to understand and comply with the laws, regulations and policies that are relevant to your job. Failure to comply with labor and employment laws can result in civil and criminal liability against you and the Company, as well as disciplinary action by the Company, up to and including termination of employment. You should contact the Company's General Counsel if you have any questions about the laws, regulations and policies that apply to you.

D. Harassment and Discrimination

The Company is committed to providing equal opportunity and fair treatment to all individuals on the basis of merit, without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status or other characteristic protected by law. The Company also prohibits harassment based on these characteristics in any form, whether physical or verbal and whether committed by supervisors, non-supervisory personnel or non-employees. Harassment may include, but is not limited to, offensive sexual flirtations, unwanted sexual advances or propositions, verbal abuse, sexually or racially degrading words, or the display in the workplace of sexually suggestive or racially degrading objects or pictures.

If you have any complaints about discrimination or harassment, report such conduct to your supervisor. All complaints will be treated with sensitivity and discretion. Your supervisor and the Company will protect your confidentiality to the extent possible, consistent with law and the Company's need to investigate your concern. Where our investigation uncovers harassment or discrimination, we will take prompt corrective action, which may include disciplinary action by the Company, up to and including, termination of employment. The Company strictly prohibits retaliation against an employee who, in good faith, files a complaint.

Any member of management who has reason to believe that an employee has been the victim of harassment or discrimination or who receives a report of alleged harassment or discrimination is required to report it to the General Counsel immediately.

E. Alcohol and Drugs

The Company is committed to maintaining a drug-free work place. All Company employees must comply strictly with Company policies regarding the abuse of alcohol and the possession, sale and use of illegal substances. Drinking alcoholic beverages is prohibited while on duty or on the premises of the Company, except at specified Company-sanctioned events or as otherwise authorized by management. Possessing, using, selling or offering illegal drugs and other controlled substances is prohibited under all circumstances while on duty or on the premises of the Company. Likewise, you are prohibited from reporting for work, or driving a Company vehicle or any vehicle on Company business, while under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drug or controlled substance.

F. Violence Prevention and Weapons

The safety and security of Company employees is vitally important. The Company will not tolerate violence or threats of violence in, or related to, the workplace. If you experience, witness or otherwise become aware of a violent or potentially violent situation that occurs on the Company's property or affects the Company's business you must immediately report the situation to your supervisor.

The Company does not permit any individual to have weapons of any kind on Company property or in vehicles, while on the job or off-site while on Company business. This is true even if you have obtained legal permits to carry weapons. The only exception to this policy applies to security personnel who are specifically authorized by Company management to carry weapons.

**XII. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

Each person who is appointed to the Board of Directors must sign a form of appointment letter or service agreement in a form satisfactory to the Company upon (or as soon as practicable and, in any event, within 14 days following) such appointment taking effect.

**XIII. LITIGATION**

Any employee who becomes aware of any changes or inaccuracies in the information he or she has previously furnished should promptly notify their supervisor or the Company's General Counsel, so that he or she may determine whether disclosure or other action by the Company is required.

Employees must advise their supervisor or the Company's General Counsel immediately if they become involved in, or threatened with, litigation or an administrative investigation or proceeding of any kind, are subject to any judgment, order or arrest, or are contacted by any

regulatory authority.

**XIV. CONCLUSION**

This Code contains general guidelines for conducting the business of the Company consistent with the highest standards of business ethics. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact your supervisor or the Company’s General Counsel. The Company expects all of its employees and directors to adhere to these standards.

This Code, as applied to the Company’s principal financial officers, shall be our “code of ethics” within the meaning of Section 406 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules promulgated thereunder.

This Code and the matters contained herein are neither a contract of employment nor a guarantee of continuing Company policy. The Company reserves the right to amend, supplement or discontinue this Code and the matters addressed herein, without prior notice, at any time.

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<b>Effective Version</b>	<b>Description of changes</b>	<b>Effective date</b>
1.0	New Policy	04APR19
2.0	Amendments to reflect AIM delisting	18DEC20
3.0	Amendments to para X. and addition of para XII	27 OCT 22