

SKYEPHARMA PLC
Form 6-K
February 02, 2006

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 6-K

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a - 16 OR 15d - 16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the month of February, 2006

SkyePharma PLC

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

SkyePharma PLC, 105 Piccadilly, London W1J 7NJ England

(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-

Edgar Filing: SKYEPHARMA PLC - Form 6-K

SkyePharma PLC

Appointment of New Chairman and Outcome of Strategic Review

LONDON, UK, 2 February 2006 - SkyePharma PLC (LSE: SKP; Nasdaq: SKYE) announces that following the completion of its Strategic Review, it has appointed Dr Argeris ("Jerry") Karabelas as Non-executive Chairman. The Strategic Review has been concluded.

Dr Karabelas, aged 53, has had a distinguished career at senior levels in the global pharmaceutical industry. He was Executive of Novartis Pharma and prior to that President of the North American operations of SmithKline Beecham. He was also executive director of Care Capital, a specialist US healthcare investment fund, and is a director of several pharmaceutical and healthcare companies including Human Genome Sciences. Dr Karabelas has been a Non-executive Director of SkyePharma PLC since 2000 and his familiarity with the Company's business will enable him to make an immediate contribution to the Company.

The Strategic Review was initiated in November 2005. As part of this process, Lehman Brothers advised the Company on potential expressions of interest for the Company. As foreshadowed in the announcement of 1 February 2006, the Company is offering for the Company as a whole that the Board feels able to recommend to shareholders. However, the Board is conscious of the interests of returning the Company to sustainable profitability in the shortest possible time, and is considering the sale of its oral and pulmonary products and divest the injectable business interests, for which a number of potential buyers are being sought during the Strategic Review. Any such divestment will be subject to approval by shareholders.

The injectables business, primarily located in San Diego, consists of two marketed products, DepoDur® and DepoBupivacaine, and a pipeline of projects in various stages of development. DepoDur® is a controlled-release injectable formulation of a number of biological products and DepoBupivacaine is a controlled-release formulation of the local anaesthetic bupivacaine for the control of post-operative pain. Development of DepoDur® is well advanced and will commence Phase III trials shortly. It has been licenced to Mundipharma in Europe, North America and Japan and to Maruho for Japan. The Board remains convinced that DepoBupivacaine has a clear medical need and has major commercial potential. However the Board is conscious of the fact that the development of DepoDur® would be required to maximise the potential of DepoBupivacaine and of the biological products pipeline. This investment, together with the associated investment in manufacturing capacity, would not only exceed the Company's current resources but also impact the Company's profitability for several years.

The Company believes that the injectables business is a valuable asset and the funds raised by the Strategic Review will enhance the core oral and pulmonary business, including accelerating the development of certain products. The Strategic Review business will consist of the oral and pulmonary products business, with development based in Munich, Germany, and in Lyon, France. There are seven marketed oral and pulmonary products, including Paxiparol, and a number of late-stage products that are close to the market. The pipeline includes SkyePharma's Flutiform, a combination asthma product that will enter Phase III development in the next few months. Further details of the portfolio and pipeline will be disclosed at the Company's R&D Days. These had to be postponed due to the Strategic Review. Dates will be announced shortly.

Dr Karabelas said: "I am honoured to take on the role of Chairman and look forward to implementing the Strategic Review, particularly given my background in the development of oral and respiratory products. I am very confident I can make an important contribution to its future success. I also relish the opportunity to work with the SkyePharma executive management team with confidence."

The conclusion of the Strategic Review and the fact that the Company is no longer in discussion with any party concerning an offer for the Company as a whole means that the Company is no longer a member of the UK Takeover Panel. Further announcements will be made in due course about the ongoing work of the SkyePharma executive management team.

For further information please contact:

SkyePharma PLC	
Michael Ashton, Chief Executive	+44 207 491 1777
Peter Laing, Director of Corporate Communications	+44 207 491 5124
Sandra Haughton, US Investor Relations	+1 212 753 5780
Buchanan Communications	+44 207 466 5000
Tim Anderson / Mark Court	

About SkyePharma

SkyePharma PLC develops pharmaceutical products benefiting from world-leading drug delivery technologies and more effective drug formulations. There are now eleven approved products incorporating SkyePharma's oral, injectable, inhaled and topical delivery, supported by advanced solubilisation capabilities. For more information, please visit www.skyepharma.com.

Certain statements in this news release are forward-looking statements and are made in reliance on the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Act of 1995. Although SkyePharma believes that the expectations expressed in these statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that these expectations will materialize. Because of a number of risks and uncertainties, actual results may vary significantly from those expressed or implied. Factors that could cause differences between actual results and those implied by the forward-looking statements include, without limitation, risks related to the development of new products, risks related to obtaining regulatory approval for existing, new or expanded indications of existing and new products, risks related to SkyePharma's ability to sell on a large scale or at all, risks related to SkyePharma's and its marketing partners' ability to maintain or expand market share in the face of changes in customer requirements, competition and regulatory compliance, the risk of product liability claims, risks related to the ownership of SkyePharma, risks related to SkyePharma's ability to manage growth. SkyePharma undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this release.

END

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SkyePharma PLC

By: /s/ Douglas Parkhill

Name: Douglas Parkhill
Title: Company Secretary

Date: February 02, 2006