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Pre-clinical products firm **Hurel** has appointed Dr **James MacDonald** to the company's Board of directors.

MacDonald is the former executive vice president of pre-clinical development of the Schering-Plough Research Institute (SPRI), which was the pharmaceutical development arm of Schering Corporation prior to its acquisition by Merck in 2009.

Over a career that has spanned more than three decades, MacDonald has brought hundreds of drug candidates into development, over thirty of which have become globally registered, major drugs.

MacDonald joined SPRI in 1994 as senior vice president, Drug Safety and Metabolism, and, over the next 14 years up until the time of the Merck acquisition, he played a leading role in building up the organisation.

Previously MacDonald held positions of increasing responsibility at Merck, including executive director of Toxicology.

"Jim MacDonald's track record of getting pharmaceuticals approved by FDA and onto the market speaks for itself," said Robert Freedman, Hurel's chairman and chief executive.

"Hurel is privileged to benefit from Jim's extraordinary wisdom and experience, both as a scientist and as a drug development executive. His guidance will be invaluable. We welcome Jim to the Board as a colleague and friend."

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