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BENCH INTERNATIONAL EXTENDS TEAM IN MAJOR LIFE SCIENCE HUBS

Top Firm Adds Decades of Combined Life Science and Recruiting Experience in San Francisco and Basel

LOS ANGELES and BASEL, DECEMBER 8, 2014 – [Bench International](#), a global, milestone-based, performance-driven executive recruiting and consulting firm serving the life sciences industry, has appointed Nicole Webber as Executive Director, and Stefanie Zechner, Ph.D., as Senior Director of Recruitment. Webber is based out of the company's San Francisco office, contributing 17 years of recruitment experience and a vast network in the world's largest life science cluster. Dr Zechner operates from Basel, Switzerland, supporting clients across Europe with unique insights gained from previous clinical trial management experience.

Having recently marked its 40th anniversary, Bench International is the oldest, global retained search firm serving the life science industry. In keeping with the company's core principles, Webber and Dr Zechner work hands-on with both clients and candidates, following through with new hires to ensure ongoing success. The team functions as an extension of the client company; acting as recruiters, advisers and gatekeepers with maximum transparency.

“By bringing in Nikki and Stefanie, we have dramatically grown our footprint in two of the most significant life science hubs,” said Chairman and CEO Denise (DeeDee) DeMan. “They both embody the value system that is very much a part of Bench International's fabric, and will further distinguish our deep commitment to the life sciences – a passion shared by our entire team.”

From her first position in the human resources department of Genentech, Webber has pursued a career in life science recruitment and understands the specific needs of venture funded start-ups to large, international companies. Seeing first-hand the value of what was being produced, Webber realized no other industry could offer the same job satisfaction. Having this focus from the beginning of her career has allowed Webber to amass an extensive network of top life science executives, as well as venture capitalists and other industry professionals.

“I am motivated by the fact that I am making strategic placements that in the end will affect patient care, drug discovery, and things that will ultimately improve quality of life,” Webber shared. “I’m thrilled to be a part of this team, and to specifically drive for outstanding quality, integrity and customer service on all levels for our clients throughout San Francisco’s extensive life science community.”

The interview process was extensive - as could be expected for a recruitment firm - but it was a necessary process for Zechner, as well. “For me it has been very important to find out about Bench; who they are, what their work ethic and vision is, and to find that they’re completely aligned with what is important to me and what our clients need,” Zechner stated.

Zechner earned her Ph.D., in psychology from the University of Basel, before entering the life sciences as a clinical study manager for international trials. Working with clinicians and participants across 100 hospitals, in 21 different countries, Zechner’s team helped to bring the first Alzheimer’s patch to market. In the process, she found her passion was working with people – not just in recruitment, but helping them to perform in their role. Zechner speaks German, English and French, as well as basic Italian. In 2012, she earned a Master’s degree in human resource management.

Zechner says, “Life science is really where my heart is. I am thrilled to be returning to the field with a renewed appreciation for drug development.”

“Stefanie brought with her the opportunity for us to again have someone that has lived on both sides of the desk,” DeMan explained. “We see her as one of tomorrow’s very strong leaders in Europe.”

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About Bench International

Bench International specializes exclusively in providing senior talent to the global life sciences sector. Bench’s multinational team of accomplished recruitment professionals, each equipped with long-standing, in-depth life science industry experience, has successfully met client needs for executive leadership since the firm’s founding in 1974. In addition to its Los Angeles headquarters, Bench serves clients from its offices in New York, San Francisco, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. For more information, visit www.benchinternational.com.

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