

**PheneX Pharmaceuticals AG**

## **Press Release**

Im Neuenheimer Feld 515

D-69120 Heidelberg

Germany

Phone: +49-6221-89013-0

Fax: +49-6221-89013-10

Dr. Claus Kremoser,

Thomas Hoffmann

<mailto:info@phenex-pharma.com>

### **PheneX licenses Nuclear Receptor Research Toolbox to Roche**

*PheneX provides a copy of its comprehensive Nuclear Receptor Research tool and clone collection to Roche on a non-exclusive basis*

Heidelberg, May 14, 2004

PheneX Pharmaceuticals AG, a Heidelberg-based, privately-owned Nuclear Receptor Research company, today announced that Roche will purchase a non-exclusive copy of PheneX' Nuclear Receptor Research (NRR) Toolbox for an undisclosed sum in cash. This NRR Toolbox encompasses a broad collection of recombinant DNA constructs and assays for nearly every human Nuclear Receptor (NR) and for most interacting NR cofactors identified to date. Nuclear Receptors are a family of well-known and commercially highly relevant drug targets which still contains discovery potential due to two thirds of the family representing orphan receptors. The NRR Toolbox also provides the basis for PheneX' so-called SNuRM™ technology, an approach to analyzing selective modulating effects of nuclear receptor drugs *in vitro*.

This NRR Toolbox license is an outcome of a fruitful collaboration on Nuclear Receptors between Roche and PheneX that started in June 2003.

"This non-exclusive transaction means that we basically provide Roche with the core assets of our Nuclear Receptor technology platform," explains Dr. Claus Kremoser, CEO of PheneX.

"This demonstrates the usefulness and unmatched comprehensiveness of our NRR Toolbox which will provide Roche with an advanced position in the Nuclear Hormone Receptor research area. Since we retain the master copy of this collection, we are free to enable further partners from pharma and biotech with it. This can happen by means of such a technology transfer or by means of a fee-for-service project of the type we have also delivered it to Roche before they decided to acquire the Toolbox."

"In addition to an excellent validation of our technology platform, Roche provides revenues to PheneX which makes us confident that we can even improve our cashflow from our first year's good results," comments Thomas Hoffmann, CFO of PheneX. "With this technology transfer we demonstrate that our business model works," he continues.

PheneX Pharmaceuticals AG was founded by six former senior scientists and executives from the drug discovery unit of LION bioscience AG together with Prof. Dr. Günther Schütz from the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg. The company focusses on the identification and analysis of novel selective drug candidates that target Nuclear Receptors using its *SNuRM*<sup>™</sup> technology (= **s**elective **N**uclear **R**eceptor **M**odulators = SNuRMs). Currently, PheneX is solely owned and financed by its founders and generates revenues through research collaborations with international partners from the pharmaceutical and biotech industries.

The *SNuRM*-Technology combines automated protein interaction analysis with Nuclear Receptor specific gene expression analysis. Nuclear Receptors are generally known as excellent drug targets. With some Nuclear Receptors the striking phenomenon can be observed that the same ligand at the same receptor can be stimulatory as well as inhibitory, depending on the chemical nature of the ligand and the tissue environment. Classical Nuclear Receptor targetted drugs tend to yield a good efficacy for their main indication at the cost of potentially severe adverse effects (e.g. estradiol for hormone replacement therapy or cortisol as an antiinflammatory glucocorticoid). PheneX' *SNuRM*-Technology analyses the molecular effects of different compounds at the targetted Nuclear Receptor and thereby contributes important information to the design of novel selective drugs with much less adverse effects.

Links: <http://www.phenex-pharma.com/>