

## Press Release

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### Phenex AG provides drug profiling services to Sanofi Aventis

*Phenex uses its Nuclear Receptor assay battery and its SNuRM® platform to analyze compounds from Sanofi Aventis on a service basis*

Ludwigshafen, May 9th, 2007

Phenex Pharmaceuticals AG announced today that it provides services in compound and cofactor profiling at Nuclear Receptor drug targets for Sanofi Aventis. Nuclear Receptors, such as the steroid receptors, are important drug targets which are very relevant for the development of diabetic drugs, women's or men's health medicines, and certain cancer or cardiovascular drugs. Phenex has built a special technology platform around Nuclear Receptors, called SNuRM®, that allows to analyze differences between novel drug candidates regarding their potential to elicit wanted or unwanted effects. Phenex and Sanofi Aventis have now entered into a fee-for-service agreement to evaluate and use this SNuRM® technology from Phenex in their drug discovery research. In addition, Phenex will apply its panel of Nuclear Receptor assays, the broadest collection worldwide, to analyze Sanofi Aventis compounds with regard to Nuclear Receptor selectivity.

„With Sanofi Aventis we have now won another top 10 pharma company as a customer,“ says Dr. Claus Kremoser, CEO of Phenex. He continues: “We are proud that our Nuclear Receptor technology platform is so highly recognized by Sanofi Aventis. They will employ our SNuRM® cofactor profiling technology as well as our NR assay battery in this agreement and this demonstrates that we have a superior technology basis for nuclear receptor drug discovery. We thank Sanofi Aventis for their trust in us. ”

### **About Phenex Pharmaceuticals AG:**

Phenex Pharmaceuticals AG was founded in 2002 by six senior scientists and executives with profound professional experience in science and in the biopharmaceutical industry together with Prof. Dr. Günther Schütz from the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg. The company focuses 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). Phenex generates revenues through research collaborations with international partners from the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. To date, Phenex has entered into 24 successful collaborations with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in Europe, the United States and in Japan, thereby making Phenex' Nuclear Receptor service business profitable since its inception in November 2002.

Furthermore, Phenex invests the proceeds from its first funding round which was closed in September 2005 into proprietary drug discovery programs targeting Type II Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Atherosclerosis. Phenex aims in developing its own drug candidates for diseases with small patient numbers and high medical needs in the long term and, at the same time, intends to out-license drug candidates for major metabolic indications to the pharmaceutical industry for further development.

Phenex is an independent privately-held company located in the chem2biz in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

### **About Phenex' *SNuRM*<sup>®</sup> technology:**

The *SNuRM*<sup>®</sup>-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 targeted drugs tend to yield a good efficacy for their main indication but can potentially lead to adverse effects (e.g. cortisol as an antiinflammatory glucocorticoid). Phenex' *SNuRM*<sup>®</sup>-Technology assesses the molecular effects of different compounds at the targeted Nuclear Receptor and thereby contributes important information to the design of novel selective drugs with much less adverse effects.

### **About chem2biz:**

chem2biz is a joint initiative by the TechnologieZentrum Ludwigshafen am Rhein GmbH and BASF Aktiengesellschaft. Company founders and companies from the chemistry-based

sectors of chemistry, nanotechnology, new materials, biotechnology and process and analytical technology can call on a modularly-structured full-service offering during the start-up and growth phases of their business.

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