

Cerep and Sanofi-Synthélabo renew their drug discovery collaboration for 2003

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Cerep (Nouveau Marché : CEREP) today announced the renewal of the drug discovery agreement signed with Sanofi-Synthélabo.

During 2003, both companies will pursue discovery efforts on the programs initiated at the beginning of the collaboration as well as on the two novel targets which were added in 2002, when the agreement was renewed for the first time.

As part of the agreement signed in December 1997, and its amendments, Sanofi-Synthélabo agrees to pay Cerep research funding and milestone payments at key compound development steps. Cerep will also receive royalties when compounds resulting from the drug discovery collaboration reach the market.

"The results obtained in the lead optimisation programs make us confident in our ability to select a drug candidate during 2003" commented Frédéric Revah, Chief Scientific Officer.

Cerep's mission is to build a pipeline of drug candidates aimed to be licensed out at the beginning of clinical phases. The drug discovery effort is financed through profitable fee for service activities.

Cerep provides solutions allowing faster and cost effective drug discovery by identifying at early stages the most promising drug candidates as well as eliminating those compounds likely to fail in development. Cerep's integrated platform encompasses a complete range of technologies including chemistry, biology, and informatics.

Cerep's technologies benefit to more than 200 pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies worldwide including most of the top pharmaceutical firms.

Cerep's drug pipeline includes collaborative drug candidates developed with Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sanofi-Synthélabo and Sepracor, as well as products discovered on its own.

Statements included in this press release which are not historical in nature are intended to be, and are hereby identified as, "forward-looking statements" for purposes of the safe harbor provided by Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements may be identified by words including "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "expects" and similar expressions. The company cautions readers that forward-looking statements, including without limitation those relating to the company's future operations and business prospects, are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Factors that may affect future operations and business prospects include, but are not limited to, clinical and scientific results and developments concerning corporate collaborations and the company's proprietary rights and other factors described in the company's Document de référence.

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