

# Cerep announces IND Filing for a drug candidate developed with Bristol-Myers Squibb

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Cerep today announces an Investigational New Drug (IND) filing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a novel LFA-1 antagonist as a result of its collaboration with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (NYSE: BMY). The drug candidate was successfully discovered, optimized and developed by Cerep and Bristol-Myers Squibb less than three years after initiation of the joint drug discovery efforts. It has therapeutic potential in the treatment of a variety of immune and inflammatory-based diseases.

Under the terms of the agreement signed with Bristol-Myers Squibb in late 1999, the IND filing triggers a milestone payment to Cerep. Additional milestone payments are associated with further program progress. Cerep is also entitled to royalties on sales when the compound reaches the market.

*"We are delighted to have our first collaborative compound reach this important milestone. We greatly appreciate the commitment of Bristol-Myers Squibb in the project,"* said Frédéric Revah Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer of Cerep. *"This milestone shows the ability of Cerep to deliver valuable new drug candidates with its partners in a timely fashion and illustrates Cerep's skill in drug discovery. We will continue to build our compound portfolio through collaborative efforts and self-funded programs."*

*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 290 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 and Sanofi-Synthélabo, 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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