

**PRECLINICAL UPDATE – DEBIO-0512 THERAPEUTIC VACCINE
FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC AND ACUTE INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS
- Proof of concept in mice transgenic for human TNF α -**

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, March 12, 2007 – Debiopharm Group (Debiopharm), a global independent biopharmaceutical development company specialising in oncology and serious medical conditions, announces the presentation of preclinical results that validate the mechanism of action of Debio-0512 as an anti-TNF α therapeutic vaccine, that inhibits inflammatory processes in animal models of acute and chronic inflammation. Debio-0512 is a keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH)-human TNF α heterocomplex (hTNF α kinoid). The results of this study, published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), were presented on March 10 at the 4th International Conference on Tumor Microenvironment in Florence, Italy.

“These results confirm that therapeutic vaccination against human TNF α could represent in the future, an effective approach for the treatment of TNF α -dependent inflammatory pathologies including rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease,” said Professor Daniel Zagury of the University Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris) and co-author of the report. “Debiopharm’s plan is for IND enabling clinical studies to be ready by the end of this year. We believe that active immunization may offer advantages over passive anti-TNF α monoclonal antibody therapy, by potentially limiting therapeutic failure related to the formation of anti-idiotypic antibodies. Moreover, the potential low frequency of boost immunizations would increase patient compliance.”

TNF α is a well-established pro-inflammatory mediator. In hTNF α expressing transgenic mice (TTg mice), a mouse model of rheumatoid arthritis, animals receiving the Debio-0512 therapeutic vaccine developed high levels of anti-TNF α antibodies, neutralising both TNF α bioactivity and binding of TNF α to its receptor. This study shows that immunization with Debio-0512 effectively controls pathogenic effects triggered by TNF α in this mouse model of rheumatoid arthritis.

About Debiopharm Group

Debiopharm Group is a global biopharmaceutical development company that in-licenses promising biologics and small molecule drug candidates. Debiopharm develops its products for global registration and maximum commercial potential for out-licensing to pharmaceutical partners for sales and marketing.

Debiopharm independently funds the worldwide development of all of its products while providing expertise in pre-clinical and clinical trials, manufacturing, drug delivery and formulation, and regulatory affairs.

Founded in 1979 and headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, Debiopharm has developed three products with global combined sales in excess of \$2.6 billion in 2006.

For more information on Debiopharm Group, please visit: www.debiopharm.com.

Debiopharm S.A. Contacts

Hervé Porchet
VP, Medical Affairs
Tel.: +41 21 321 01 11
Fax: +41 21 321 01 69
hporchet@debio.com

Kim Bill
VP, Business & Legal Affairs
kbill@debio.com
Tel.: +41 21 321 01 11
Fax: +41 21 321 01 69

Additional Media Contacts

In London
Maitland
Brian Hudspith
Tel: +44 (0)20 7379 5151
bhudspith@maitland.co.uk

In New York
Noonan Russo
Wendy Lau
Tel: +1 212-845-4272
Fax: +1 212-845-4260
wendy.lau1@eurorscg.com