

Regulated information

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## Galapagos and University of Bristol enter drug discovery collaboration in chronic pain

**Mechelen, Belgium and Bristol, UK; 16 July 2010 – Galapagos NV (Euronext: GLPG) and the University of Bristol today announced a new drug discovery collaboration aimed at developing treatments for chronic pain associated with diabetes (diabetic neuropathic pain). Galapagos' service division BioFocus will provide hit-to-lead and lead optimization services for a Wellcome Trust funded program at the University of Bristol. Total contract value for Galapagos could exceed €3.3 million in research fees over two years.**

This work is supported by a Seeding Drug Discovery Award from the Wellcome Trust, to a team of researchers led by David Wynick, Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of Bristol. The project aims to develop a new analgesic drug based on the protein galanin, a small protein that has been shown to reduce neuropathic pain in a number of models of diseases, including diabetes. In earlier studies, several compounds from the BioFocus screening collection were shown to amplify the therapeutic effect of galanin *in vitro*. In the two-year collaboration announced today, BioFocus will provide medicinal chemistry, biology and ADME/PK for this research project, with the goal to optimize these molecules for the treatment of diabetic neuropathic pain.

"This latest collaboration with the University of Bristol is a prime example of BioFocus' ability to deliver results and thereby retain partners. Once again we see the BioFocus screening libraries deliver promising hits that are of interest to the academic and pharmaceutical communities," said Onno van de Stolpe, CEO of Galapagos. "We are pleased that the University of Bristol has expanded and extended this successful relationship into other strong areas of BioFocus expertise."

"Molecules from the BioFocus collection have shown promise in amplifying the therapeutic properties of galanin in models of neuropathic pain," said Prof. David Wynick from the University of Bristol. "In this new collaboration with BioFocus, we aim to further optimize these molecules into potential clinical candidates for the treatment of chronic pain associated with diseases such as diabetes."

Rick Davis, Business Development Manager at the Wellcome Trust, commented "Existing painkillers can prove largely ineffective against neuropathic pain so we are pleased to support this project, which addresses an area of huge unmet clinical need."

### **About diabetic neuropathic pain**

Diabetes is the most common cause of neuropathic pain, which is often experienced as a burning or electrical pain. Existing painkillers have proven largely ineffective in treating diabetic neuropathic pain, which is believed to be caused by damaged nerves as a result of exposure to toxins or inadequate blood supply. The International Diabetes Federation (IDF)<sup>1</sup> predicts that the

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<sup>1</sup> IDF Diabetes Atlas 2009; <http://www.diabetesatlas.org/content/diabetes-and-impaired-glucose-tolerance>

population of diabetes sufferers worldwide will increase from 285 million in 2010 to 438 million by 2030, given the increasing levels of obesity.

#### **About the University of Bristol**

The University of Bristol is one of the leading research universities in the UK, having an excellent national and international reputation in research, teaching and global discovery. The University is committed to combining its excellence in research and innovation with a vibrant enterprise culture and is working with government, industry and other partner organisations to encourage the growth of knowledge-based business in South West England. More info at: [www.bris.ac.uk](http://www.bris.ac.uk)

#### **About the Wellcome Trust**

The Wellcome Trust is a global charity dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. It supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. The Trust's breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests. More info at: [www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk)

#### **About BioFocus**

[BioFocus](http://www.biofocus.com) aims to expand its partners' drug pipelines by accelerating the gene-to-drug candidate discovery process. This is achieved through a comprehensive discovery platform, which includes target discovery in human primary cells, focused as well as diverse compound libraries, *in vitro* and cell-based screening, structural biology, medicinal chemistry, ADME/PK services, supported by unique chemogenomic and informatics tools, and compound library acquisition, storage and distribution services. As a service division of Galapagos, BioFocus has over 250 employees based in the UK, the US and Switzerland. More info at: [www.biofocus.com](http://www.biofocus.com)

#### **About Galapagos**

[Galapagos](http://www.glpq.com) (Euronext: GLPG; OTC: GLPYY) is a mid-size biotechnology company specialized in the discovery and development of small molecule and antibody therapies with novel modes-of-action. The Company is progressing one of the largest pipelines in biotech, with four clinical and over 50 small molecule discovery/pre-clinical programs. Through risk/reward-sharing alliances with GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Merck & Co., Roche and Servier, Galapagos is eligible to receive €3.3 billion in downstream milestones, plus royalties. Together with its BioFocus and Argenta service operations, Galapagos has over 670 employees and operates facilities in six countries, with global headquarters in Mechelen, Belgium. More info at: [www.glpq.com](http://www.glpq.com)

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The logo for Galapagos, featuring the word "Galapagos" in a green, sans-serif font.

*This release may contain forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, statements containing the words "believes," "anticipates," "expects," "intends," "plans," "seeks," "estimates," "may," "will," "could," "stands to," and "continues," as well as similar expressions. Such forward-looking statements may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which might cause the actual results, financial condition, performance or achievements of Galapagos, or industry results, to be materially different from any historic or future results, financial conditions, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Given these uncertainties, the reader is advised not to place any undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of publication of this document. Galapagos expressly disclaims any obligation to update any such forward-looking statements in this document to reflect any change in its expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based, unless required by law or regulation.*