

The Charité University in Berlin and sanofi-aventis Sign an Innovative Research Cooperation Agreement

- First Public-Private Research Partnership of this kind in Germany -

Paris, France - May 31, 2010 - Sanofi-aventis (EURONEXT: SAN and NYSE: SNY) and the *Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin* (the *Charité* University of Berlin) announced today the signature of a cooperation agreement for the research and development of innovative medicines and therapies. The agreement was signed by Professor Karl Max Einhäupl, Chairman of the Executive Board of *Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin*, and Christopher A. Viehbacher, Chief Executive Officer of sanofi-aventis.

This public-private partnership, the first of this kind in Germany, aims at taking advantage of the joint know-how in research and development of sanofi-aventis and *Charité* to develop innovative approaches faster and make them accessible to patients.

Both partners will combine their respective scientific expertise starting from pre-clinical research phase, much earlier than it is the case with the usual types of cooperation. Model systems, for example, will be developed and tested together, and new methods for personalized medicine will be pursued. The first projects will commence shortly in the fields of stroke research and inflammatory auto-immune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis. Other plans include setting up a support program for innovative projects of young researchers.

"We are very pleased to collaborate with the Charité, one of Europe's top-class clinical centers, and to share with this renowned institute our ambition to place patients' health at the heart of our efforts," said Christopher A. Viehbacher, Chief Executive Officer of sanofi-aventis. *"This new collaboration is consistent with our objective to increase innovation in research and development through greater openness. We are convinced that this fruitful collaboration will ultimately lead to major discoveries that will benefit patients".*

"By working together, we are able to break new grounds in the cooperation between scientific institutes and the pharmaceutical industry," said Professor Karl Max Einhäupl, Chairman of the Executive Board of *Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin*. *"This new approach of mutual exchange is very important for both sides, as it is easier to overcome structural and financial challenges as a team. Our partnership will accelerate the joint drug development based on strong university medical research. The Charité focuses particularly on the continuous evaluation of all cooperation projects set in a framework agreement to safeguard ethical standards, intellectual property, research freedom and good scientific practice. By doing so, societal and scientific challenges of this partnership can be satisfied adequately."*

All parties involved agreed that the opportunity to identify scientific challenges at an early stage, work together on solutions and directly transfer them to clinical development, will not only accelerate access to innovative medical therapies for patients, but also lay the foundations for staying ahead of international competition.

About Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin

The Charité is one of the largest university hospitals in Europe, where 3,000 physicians and scientists research, cure and teach at a top international level. More than half of the German Nobel Prize Winners in Medicine and Physiology have worked at the Charité, amongst others Emil von Behring, Robert Koch and Paul Ehrlich. The university hospital is renowned worldwide for its excellent training center. The campus spreads out over four sites which include more than 100 clinics and institutes concentrated in 17 Charité centers. The Charité employs 14,500 people and generates a turnover of approximately one billion euro each year, making it one of Berlin's main employers. In 2010 the Charité celebrates its 300th anniversary.

About sanofi-aventis

Sanofi-aventis, a leading global pharmaceutical company, discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions to improve the lives of everyone. Sanofi-aventis is listed in Paris (EURONEXT: SAN) and in New York (NYSE: SNY). For more information, please visit: www.sanofi-aventis.com

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