



# Sanofi and *DNDi* - *Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative* - Sign an Innovative Agreement to Generate New Drugs for Neglected Tropical Diseases

Paris, France and Geneva, Switzerland - May 30, 2011 - Sanofi (EURONEXT: SAN and NYSE:SNY) and Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DND*i*) announced today a three-year research collaboration agreement for the research of new treatments for nine neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) for which new, adapted, and efficient tools are urgently needed to treat patients in endemic countries. This agreement is built upon a history of successful collaboration between Sanofi and DND*i*.

In the framework of this agreement, Sanofi will initially bring molecules from its libraries into the partnership, while DND*i* and Sanofi collaborate in research activities on innovative molecular scaffolds. The core of the agreement lies in the innovative management of intellectual property generated through the collaboration. The rights to results produced by this partnership will be co-owned by Sanofi and DND*i*. The partners will facilitate publication of the results to ensure access to the wider community of researchers focusing on NTDs. The public sector will benefit from the drugs developed through this agreement under the best possible conditions to ease access for patients in all endemic countries, irrespective of their level of economic development.

"Sanofi is committed to bringing therapeutic solutions to those most affected and exposed to neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)," said Dr. Elias Zerhouni, President, Global Research & Development, Sanofi. "In this new research collaboration with DNDi, we have taken a firm step towards greater flexibility in the sharing of knowledge to produce new medicines."

"This agreement is a major milestone in our access to molecules that can help combat neglected diseases," said Dr. Bernard Pécoul, Executive Director of DNDi. "We believe that this level of private-sector involvement in open-research collaboration to deliver appropriate medicines as public goods is vital to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations of the world. The agreement allows DNDi to continue making science work more efficiently for the patients who need it most. We encourage and commend such engagement."

# **Neglected Tropical Diseases covered by the agreement**

This agreement covers nine neglected tropical diseases (NTDs): kinetoplastid diseases (leishmaniases, Chagas disease, and human African trypanosomiasis), helminth infections (lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis), and dracunculiasis, fascioliasis, and schistosomiasis.

# Sanofi's involvement in neglected disease

Sanofi has been involved in the field of NTDs since the 1940s, through research programmes and manufacturing of treatments for sleeping sickness and leishmaniasis. In 2001, Sanofi entered into a partnership agreement with WHO to fight sleeping sickness. In 2006, this partnership was expanded to include leishmaniasis, Buruli ulcer, and Chagas disease and renewed for a further 5 years in 2011. To improve existing drugs and anticipate tomorrow's challenges, Sanofi created in 2010, within its Research & Development organization, a Therapeutic Strategic Unit dedicated to new anti-infectives. Its scope includes multiresistant bacterial infections as well as some NTDs.



### **About Sanofi**

Sanofi, a global and diversified healthcare leader, discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions focused on patients' needs. Sanofi has core strengths in the field of healthcare with seven growth platforms: diabetes solutions, human vaccines, innovative drugs, rare diseases, consumer healthcare, emerging markets and animal health. Sanofi is listed in Paris (EURONEXT: SAN) and in New York (NYSE: SNY).

# About Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)

DND*i* is a not-for-profit product development partnership working to research and develop new treatments for neglected diseases, in particular human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease, malaria, paediatric HIV, and specific helminth-related infections. DND*i* was established in 2003 by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation from Brazil, the Indian Council for Medical Research, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, Pasteur Institute, and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF). WHO/TDR acts as a permanent observer. Since 2007, DND*i* has delivered four products: two fixed-dose anti-malarials (ASAQ developed with Sanofi and ASMQ), NECT (nifurtimox-eflornithine combination therapy for sleeping sickness), and SSG&PM, a combination therapy to treat visceral leishmaniasis in Africa. For more information, www.dndi.org

## Forward Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. These statements include projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives, intentions and expectations with respect to future financial results, events, operations, services, product development and potential, and statements regarding future performance. Forward-looking statements are generally identified by the words "expects", "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "plans" and similar expressions. Although Sanofi's management believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, investors are cautioned that forward-looking information and statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of Sanofi, that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. These risks and uncertainties include among other things, the uncertainties inherent in research and development, future clinical data and analysis, including post marketing, decisions by regulatory authorities, such as the FDA or the EMA, regarding whether and when to approve any drug, device or biological application that may be filed for any such product candidates as well as their decisions regarding labeling and other matters that could affect the availability or commercial potential of such products candidates, the absence of guarantee that the products candidates if approved will be commercially successful, the future approval and commercial success of therapeutic alternatives, the Group's ability to benefit from external growth opportunities as well as those discussed or identified in the public filings with the SEC and the AMF made by Sanofi, including those listed under "Risk Factors" and "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in Sanofi's annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2010. Other than as required by applicable law, Sanofi does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information or statements.

**Contacts:** 

Sanofi Corporate Media Relations Marisol Peron Tel: +33 (0) 1 53 77 46 46 marisol.peron@sanofi.com DNDi Violaine Dällenbach Tel: +41 (0)22 906 92 47 vdallenbach@dndi.org