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TGFTX1 PROGRAM: SUCCESSFUL IDENTIFICATION OF PROPRIETARY RORγt LIGANDS FOR THE TREATMENT OF AUTO-IMMUNE DISEASES

Lille (France), Boston (Massachusetts, United States), March 13, 2013 – GENFIT (Alternext: ALGFT; ISIN: FR0004163111), a biopharmaceutical company at the forefront of drug discovery and development, today announces that it has discovered and validated a series of novel and proprietary ligands for the treatment of auto-immune diseases.

These compounds inhibit the secretion of interleukin IL-17 from the stimulated Th17 lymphocytes, by antagonizing the activity of the nuclear receptor RORγt. These results represent a significant step forward in future development of new drug candidates for the treatment of diseases that express the Th17 component. Indeed, the IL-17 pathway is today recognized as a major pathological player in the etiology of several auto-immune diseases such as Psoriasis, Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Inflammatory Bowel Disease. In addition, both clinical and preclinical data accumulate to demonstrate that the same Th17 pathway is present and important for development of other inflammatory and cardiometabolic diseases.

Dr. Robert Walczak, the Director of Pharmacology at GENFIT, declared: *"The conception of synthetic, orally available small molecule ligands that interfere with the production and with systemic pathological actions of the family of IL-17 cytokines is an important achievement for drug discovery at GENFIT. Major pharmaceutical companies have invested considerable budgets to develop biologic agents that target the IL17-IL17R pathway. Some of these treatments have recently demonstrated exceptional therapeutic properties in patients with psoriasis but clearly this area is in its infancy and sufficient space remains to bring analogous treatments. Our approach to target this important pathogenic pathway with small synthetic molecules will bring more flexibility in terms of possible routes of administration (i.e. oral, topical, inhaled) and also considerably lower costs of manufacturing, which will finally translate into more affordable treatment regimens."*

Jean-François Mouney, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GENFIT, concluded: *"We are delighted that our efforts to conceive functional RORγt ligands have come to fruition. The results obtained with our proprietary molecules acting on this receptor enable us to strengthen our pipeline, and clearly show that an ambitious optimization program can now be undertaken. This field is a particularly hot subject in the strategy of major pharmaceutical companies, as judged from the recent deals. At this stage, we are very pleased with the interest generated by GENFIT's results and with the discussions that are currently in progress with potential partners."*

About GENFIT:

GENFIT is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the Discovery and Development of drug candidates in therapeutic fields linked to cardiometabolic disorders (prediabetes/diabetes, atherosclerosis, dyslipidemia, inflammatory diseases…). GENFIT uses a multi-pronged approach based on early diagnosis, preventive solutions, and therapeutic treatments and advances therapeutic research programs, either independently or in partnership with leading pharmaceutical companies, including Sanofi, to address these major public health concerns and their unmet medical needs.

GENFIT's research programs have resulted in the creation of a rich and diversified pipeline of drug candidates at different stages of development, including GENFIT's lead proprietary compound, GFT505, that is currently in Phase IIb.
With facilities in Lille, France, and Cambridge, MA (USA), the Company has approximately 80 employees. GENFIT is a public company listed on the Alternext trading market by Euronext™ Paris (Alternext: ALGFT; ISIN: FR0004163111). www.genfit.com

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