



Press Release

BioApex, s.r.o. signs Collaborative Agreement with Palacký University and the Warsaw Institute of Organic Chemistry

Olomouc, Czech Republic (March 30, 2009) – BioApex, s.r.o., a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery, development and commercialization of novel, mechanism-targeted drugs to treat serious cell cycle related disorders including various cancers, today announced that it has signed a collaborative agreement with Palacký University and the Warsaw Institute of Organic Chemistry. The cooperation will focus on the research, development and commercialisation of new anti-melanoma compounds.

About BioApex, s.r.o.: BioApex owns a proprietary portfolio of small molecule-like compounds derived from natural plant substances, that exhibit promising anticancer properties. In collaboration with Palacký University and the Warsaw Institute of Organic Chemistry, BioApex recently developed unusual betulinic acid derivatives with potent *in vitro* anticancer activity against human cancer cell lines as well as high solubility in aqueous media like blood serum. To date, BioApex has developed small molecule compounds: BA1248 has shown to be active in melanoma cell cultures. Betulinic acid known as a naturally occurring pentacyclic triterpenoid has anti-retroviral, anti-malarial, and anti-inflammatory properties; more recently, it was discovered to have potential as an anticancer agent, inhibiting topoisomerase. It has been demonstrated *in vitro* and *in vivo* that betulinic acid induces apoptosis in human melanoma.

BioApex's intellectual property addresses the very broad fields of cell division related disorders and, besides cancers, includes restenosis, rheumatoid arthritis, glomerulonephritis, type I diabetes, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, growth of parasites, and viral disorders. BioApex believes that, to date, there are no commercially available compounds that combine the same mode of action, effectiveness and minimal side effects.

BioApex plans to initially advance a group of promising compounds on which the design, *in vitro* testing and preclinical trials have been completed, to clinical testing. The compounds will be taken through pharmacokinetic studies and pre-clinical efficacy trials to determine development priorities. BioApex's business model - a tiered strategy with some compounds in an advanced stage of development and encouraging results to date and some compounds in the pipeline for development – is tailored to attract both, industry "partners" and – in addition to governmental grants and loans - private equity to fund operations. With limited resources focused on research and development, BioApex plans to partner with strong pharmaceutical companies that have established sales and marketing channels in BioApex's target areas.

For more information, visit the company's website at www.bioapex.cz.