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Medivir and Chiron in research collaboration regarding future HIV drugs

Chiron Corp, Emeryville, California and Medivir AB, Huddinge, Sweden has signed an agreement regarding a joint research program on new HIV/AIDS drugs. Medivir has world class competence in antiviral research. The company has already developed substances active against the HIV virus. Recently it was announced that Medivir licenced an HIV compound on exclusive worldwide basis to Chiron. Now the collaboration is widened to include a funded research program during two years on future HIV/AIDS drugs. This new agreement can bring a total of 4 MUSD to Medivir.

Medivir acquires new technology.

Medivir AB will now acquire access to combinatorial chemistry technology from Chiron. This new technology facilitates lead optimisation. This new technology will advance Medivir capabilities in more efficient drug development.

Chiron Corp is one of the leading companies within the field of combinatorial chemistry development. Now the collaboration between the two companies is further extended to also include transfer of this technology. Researchers from Medivir will be trained at Chiron.

Medivir is a research and development company with the business concept of developing new and improved substances for the treatment of infectious diseases. Medivir's research and development initiatives are concentrated on developing new chemical substances that inhibit the enzymes polymerase and protease. These two enzymes are pre-requisites for the propagation of virtually all viruses, fungi, parasites and bacteria. Experience in the area of polymerase and protease consequently provides Medivir with the opportunity to develop new pharmaceutical substances active against various infectious diseases. At present, the research projects are primarily focused on substances active against diseases caused by viruses that cause shingles, herpes, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

Chiron Corporation, headquartered in Emeryville, California, is a leading biotechnology company that participates in three global healthcare markets: therapeutics, blood testing and vaccines. Chiron also conducts research and development in the field of recombinant technology, novel vaccines, gene therapy, small molecule discovery and genomics.

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For more information about Medivir: www.medivir.se

For more information about Chiron: www.chiron.com