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**"MY CHILD MATTERS":
25 PROGRAMMES IN 16 COUNTRIES
TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD CANCERS**

***- On the World Cancer Day on February 4, 2008,
the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) and sanofi-aventis present
an interim report on their commitment to fight childhood cancer
in developing and newly industrialized countries -***

Paris, Geneva, February 4, 2008 – On this World Cancer Day, the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) and sanofi-aventis are taking stock of their programme *My child matters* launched in 2004 to improve the fight against childhood cancers in the countries where pediatric oncology is just emerging. The events organised by the **25 partner institutions in the 16 countries** where this initiative is deployed today: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Tanzania, Ukraine, Venezuela and Vietnam, will be in honour of these children and their families.

Cancer constitutes the prime cause of mortality in the world. The WHO estimates that it will cause 84 million deaths between 2005 and 2015 if no action is taken. Cancers among children account for only a small proportion of the totality. Nevertheless, in this population, one can observe the greatest difference in the rate of survival between the rich and developing countries (where 80% of the children affected live). More than 160,000 children are affected with this disease every year and around 90,000 die from it. In the developed countries, some 80% of the children with cancer can be saved. Unfortunately, this rate of cure drops to 20%, even 10%, in the poorest countries in the world where information, early diagnosis and access to care and treatment are often difficult. Yet the majority of childhood cancers are curable if they are caught in time.

The *My child matters* programme encourages the institutions (hospitals, foundations, NGOs, etc.) to put pragmatic programmes in place to contribute to improving information, early diagnosis, access to care and treatment, the management of pain and a better way of handling the social welfare aspects of this disease for the benefit of both the young patients and their families.

To date, **1,717 health professionals** have taken part in training courses on this disease and its management in children. **7,155 children and 4,261 under-privileged families** have already benefited from these programmes.

“This is a unique collaboration in the world of cancer,” said Dr Franco Cavalli, President of the UICC. “It is rare for a pharmaceutical company to have a department solely devoted to humanitarian projects, and it is rare for an NGO and a pharmaceutical company to work together so closely and harmoniously to improve children’s lives. Together, our ultimate objective is to increase the rate of survival but we can already see on the ground that ‘My child matters’ has made a real difference.”

Jean-François Dehecq, Chairman of sanofi-aventis added: *“This outstanding partnership is the outcome of a meeting based on the common objective of bringing childhood cancers under control. It has grown over time and created bonds of mutual esteem and trust. We must pursue our efforts to meet the needs of the communities with which and for which these projects are implemented so as to cut back the excessive inequalities and ensure that health is more fully shared by all. It is all a matter of a shared social responsibility.”*

About UICC

The International Union Against Cancer (UICC) is the only international non-governmental organization that is dedicated solely to the global control of cancer. Its vision is of a world where cancer is eliminated as a major life threatening disease for future generations. With over 280 member organizations in more than 90 countries, UICC is a resource for action and a voice for change.

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 PARIS: SAN) and in New York (NYSE: SNY).