



11.03.2013

## Gene Signal announces completion of private funding round



### Gene Signal

, a Swiss-based biotechnology company pioneering the development of innovative therapies for angiogenesis-based diseases, announced recently the completion of its latest funding round. This was raised principally through the same group of private investors who have backed the company since its formation in 2000. The proceeds will be used to complete a number of Phase II trials in back of the eye angiogenic diseases and to take through to commercialisation its lead product Aganirsen for the Orphan Drug indication neovascular-associated corneal graft rejection (NV-CGR), a rare eye disease. Phase III results in NV-CGR are due to be announced in mid-2013.

The company has built one of the industry's leading angiogenesis-focused pipelines, with six candidates in development for eleven indications in ophthalmology, dermatology, vascular disorders and cancer. The lead product Aganirsen (GS-101) is well-positioned to bring significant benefits to patients and physicians thanks to its novel mechanism of action, its excellent local tolerability and its application in the form of eye-drops or emulsion compared to current therapies such as lasers or injections.

Eric Viaud, CEO and co-founder of Gene Signal, commented: "We are delighted that our existing and new shareholders have reaffirmed their confidence in our team and our science. Together we have built a pipeline of great promise to address the significant unmet needs of angiogenesis-based diseases. The funds will enable Gene Signal to implement its clear strategy of developing and commercialising assets for orphan drug indications ourselves, while keeping all options open for development and commercialisation in major global indications such as age related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy."

The company has reached this impressive stage of maturity through three forms of financing: private investor funding; support of government health departments in Switzerland, France and Canada for various R & D activities; and revenues in Switzerland, France and Spain from compassionate use (named patient sales) for patients receiving Aganirsen for treating the orphan indication NV-CGR.

Gene Signal was founded in 2000, is privately owned, and is led by a team of highly qualified scientific and commercial talents. Its headquarters are in Lausanne ( EPFL

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), Switzerland, with research programs based in France (Bioparc Genopole, Evry) and product development in Canada (Montreal).

### About angiogenesis-based diseases

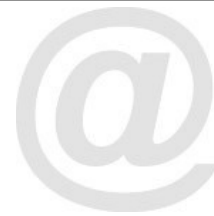
Angiogenesis is the growth of new capillary blood vessels. This natural process is controlled by a precise balance of growth and inhibitory agents produced in the body by healthy tissue for healing and reproduction. Abnormal blood vessel growth leads to many diseases including various ischemic and inflammatory diseases as well as cancer.

According to the Angiogenesis Foundation, more than one billion people worldwide are believed to be affected by angiogenesis related conditions. In recent years, a concentrated research effort has been made to discover the specific pro- and anti-angiogenic molecules involved in the complex interactions of the angiogenesis process.

According to Global Industry Analysts, the global market for Angiogenesis inhibitors and stimulators is expected to

Date: 11.03.2013

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