



PRESS RELEASE

Changes in the Management of Avontec GmbH

Dr. Helga Grupe appointed Chief Business Officer and Managing Director of Avontec GmbH

Munich (Germany), September 24th, 2007. Avontec GmbH, a Munich based biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel therapeutic treatments for inflammatory diseases today announced that Dr. Helga Grupe was appointed Chief Business Officer and Managing Director of Avontec GmbH as of 17. September 2007.

Dr. Grupe has 16 years of experience in leadership roles in marketing and business development. She joined Avontec from Wilex AG, a publically traded German biopharmaceutical company where she served as Vice President of Business Development from 2000 to 2007. From 1996 to 2000, she held various positions with increasing responsibility in marketing and business development at Monsanto Deutschland GmbH, including Business Development Director of Europe. Prior to that, from 1995 to 1996, Dr. Grupe was Market Development Manager at Zeneca GmbH. From 1991 to 1994, she started and led the Biotechnology Co-ordination Center of the Federal State of Lower Saxony, Germany. Dr. Grupe received her PhD in biology at the University of Göttingen, Germany.

Dr. Thomas Schulze, Chief Executive Officer of Avontec said: "We are very pleased to have won a highly competent expert with Dr. Grupe, who is perfectly qualified to achieve Avontec's objectives in the field of business development, especially the conclusion of new partnerships for our clinical development programs."

Dr. Grupe commented: "Avontec has established a powerful product base for multiple inflammatory diseases with the most advanced programs already in Phase 2. I am pleased to be joining their impressive team and look forward to contributing to the further growth of this dynamic company."

About Avontec

Avontec is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel therapeutic treatments for inflammatory diseases. Avontec's clinical development programs include product candidates for several potential inflammatory indications. The lead programs, AVT-01 in asthma and AVT-02 in psoriasis, have been successfully advanced into Phase 2a clinical trials that are expected to be completed within the first half of 2008. In addition, there are several candidates in the pipeline based on Avontec's core decoy technology. Avontec operates based on a lean business model with a seasoned management team experienced in clinical development.

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