



## **Bayer HealthCare and Regeneron to Collaborate on VEGF Trap for the Treatment of Eye Diseases**

*Regeneron Retains U.S. Commercialization Rights, Receives  
\$75 Million Upfront, and Eligible for up to \$245 Million of Milestone Payments*

**Leverkusen, Germany and Tarrytown, NY (October 18, 2006)** -- Bayer HealthCare (NYSE: BAY) and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: REGN) today announced that the companies have entered into a collaboration agreement for the global development, and commercialization outside the U.S., of the VEGF Trap for the treatment of eye disease by local administration (VEGF Trap-Eye). The VEGF Trap-Eye, currently in Phase I and Phase II clinical trials, is a protein that binds to or "traps" vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and blocks its activity. VEGF is thought to play a critical role in certain eye diseases.

"The VEGF Trap is an excellent strategic fit for Bayer, which underscores our commitment to specialty pharmaceuticals," said Arthur Higgins, Chairman of the Board of Management, Bayer HealthCare. "We are encouraged by the early clinical data we've seen and believe the VEGF Trap has the potential to further transform the treatment paradigm for patients suffering from diseases of the eye."

Under the agreement, Bayer and Regeneron will collaborate on the development of the VEGF Trap-Eye through an integrated global plan that encompasses the neovascular form of age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD), diabetic eye diseases, and other eye diseases and disorders. The companies will jointly commercialize the VEGF Trap-Eye outside the U.S. and will share equally in profits from ex-U.S. sales. Within the U.S., Regeneron has exclusive commercialization rights in all indications and will retain 100% of all profits from any such sales.

Principal financial terms of the agreement include:

- Bayer will make an upfront payment of \$75 million to Regeneron.
- Bayer and Regeneron will share initial global development costs (totaling over \$250 million over the next several years) as follows:
  - 2007-2008: According to a formula based on total development costs
  - 2009 and thereafter: All expenses shared equally.
- If a VEGF Trap-Eye product is granted marketing authorization in a major market country outside the U.S., Regeneron, from its 50% share of VEGF Trap-Eye profits outside the U.S., will reimburse Bayer for 50% of the development costs that Bayer has incurred.
- Regeneron can earn up to \$110 million in total development and regulatory milestones related to the development of the VEGF Trap-Eye for wet AMD and DME (or other major eye indications) and marketing approvals in a major market countries outside the U.S. A total of \$40 million of these milestone payments are due upon the initiation of Phase 3 clinical trials in wet AMD and diabetic macular edema (DME).
- Regeneron can earn up to \$135 million in sales milestones when total annual sales of the VEGF Trap-Eye outside the U.S. achieve certain specified levels starting at \$200 million.

“As an established leader in specialty pharmaceutical products, Bayer is an ideal partner to help develop and commercialize the VEGF Trap outside the U.S. for eye disease,” said Leonard S. Schleifer, M.D., Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Regeneron. “In recent years there have been important advances in the treatment of serious eye diseases such as wet AMD, which is the leading cause of vision loss and blindness among people over age 65. However, there continues to be a need for additional treatment options. We look forward to working together with Bayer to aggressively develop the VEGF Trap-Eye for wet AMD, diabetic eye disease, and other eye diseases with unmet medical needs.”

### **About Wet AMD and the VEGF Trap-Eye**

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and diabetes are the leading non-infectious causes of acquired blindness. Patients with these conditions can experience a gradual loss of vision due to the development of abnormal, fragile new blood vessels in the back of the eye. There is a particular type of AMD called “wet AMD” which accounts for approximately 90% of AMD-related blindness, despite constituting only 10% of cases of AMD. Approximately 1.5 million people are affected with wet AMD in the United States and at least an equal number in the rest of the world.

The development of the blood vessels which contribute to these conditions is in part due to a secreted protein called Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor, or VEGF. VEGF is a naturally occurring protein in the body whose normal role is to trigger formation of new blood vessels (angiogenesis) to support the growth of the body’s tissues and organs. It has also been associated with the abnormal growth and fragility of new blood vessels in the eye, which lead to the development of a number of eye diseases, such as wet AMD.

The VEGF Trap-Eye is a fully human, soluble VEGF receptor fusion protein that binds all forms of VEGF-A and related placental growth factor (PlGF). The VEGF Trap-Eye is designed to block the interaction of these growth factors with cell-surface receptors, thereby preventing the subsequent formation of the new blood vessels that play an important role in the development of eye diseases such as wet AMD. Currently the VEGF Trap is in a Phase II clinical trial for the treatment of patients with wet AMD and a Phase I trial for the treatment of patients with diabetic macular edema (DME).

### **About Regeneron Pharmaceuticals**

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, and intends to commercialize therapeutic medicines for the treatment of serious medical conditions. Regeneron has therapeutic candidates in clinical trials for the potential treatment of cancer, eye diseases, and inflammatory diseases, and has preclinical programs in other diseases and disorders. For more information on Regeneron, visit the Company’s web site at [www.regeneron.com](http://www.regeneron.com).

### **About Bayer HealthCare**

Bayer HealthCare, a subsidiary of Bayer AG, is one of the world’s leading, innovative companies in the healthcare and medical products industry and is based in Leverkusen, Germany. Bayer HealthCare generated sales amounting to some 9.4 billion euros and employed 33,800 people worldwide in 2005. The company combines the global activities of the Animal Health, Consumer Care, Diabetes Care, Diagnostics and Pharmaceuticals divisions. The new Pharmaceuticals division was established on January 1, 2006, and comprises the former Biological Products and Pharmaceutical divisions. Bayer Pharmaceuticals now has three business units: Hematology/Cardiology, Oncology and Primary Care. Bayer HealthCare’s aim is to discover and manufacture products that will improve human and animal health worldwide. The products enhance well-being and quality of life by diagnosing, preventing and treating diseases.

## **Forward Looking Statements**

*This news release discusses historical information and includes forward-looking statements about Regeneron and its products, programs, finances, and business, all of which involve a number of risks and uncertainties, such as risks associated with preclinical and clinical development of our drug candidates, determinations by regulatory and administrative governmental authorities which delay or restrict our ability to continue to develop or commercialize our drug candidates, competing drugs that are superior to our product candidates, unanticipated expenses, the availability and cost of capital, the costs of developing, producing, and selling products, the potential for any collaboration agreement, including our agreements with the sanofi-aventis Group and Bayer HealthCare, to be canceled or to terminate without any product success, risks associated with third party intellectual property, and other material risks. A more complete description of these and other material risks can be found in Regeneron's filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including its Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 and its Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006. Regeneron does not undertake any obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise unless required by law.*

*This news release contains forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer Group management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in our public reports filed with the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (including our Form 20-F). The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.*

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