

For further information please contact:

**Media enquiries:**

Northbank Communications

Sue Charles, CEO

Tel: +44 (0)20 7886 8152

E-mail: [s.charles@northbankcommunications](mailto:s.charles@northbankcommunications)

Northbank Communications

Eileen Paul, Account Manager

Tel: +44 (0)1260 296516

E-mail: [e.paul@northbankcommunications](mailto:e.paul@northbankcommunications)

**At Morphochem:**

Dr Peter Seufer-Wasserthal

Tel: +43 (0)7673 321511

Email: [peter.seufer@morphochem.de](mailto:peter.seufer@morphochem.de)

## **The Genetics Company and Morphochem enters into collaboration To identify novel inhibitors as new therapeutic agents for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease**

**Munich (Germany), 31st March 2004...** The Genetics Company, Inc. a privately held drug discovery and development company focusing on research, development and commercialization of products for the diagnosis, monitoring and therapy of patients suffering from neurodegenerative diseases and cancer and Morphochem AG, a leader in the evolutionary discovery of small molecule drugs have announced that they have entered into a research collaboration using Morphochem's structural biology tools to support the  $\beta$ -Secretase program of The Genetics Company. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Morphochem will apply its protein expression, purification, crystallization and structure determination capabilities, all part of Morphochem's MOREsystem<sup>®</sup>, to generate biostructural information for further optimization of inhibitor compounds against  $\beta$ -Secretase identified by The Genetics Company as potential new therapeutic agents for Alzheimer's Disease.

Commenting on the collaboration, Dr Lutz Weber, Chief Scientific Officer of Morphochem said: "We are delighted that The Genetics Company has chosen Morphochem for this collaboration. It provides further validation to Morphochem's technology platform and underlines the importance of our biostructural tools for developing novel lead compounds against important disease-related targets. We are well placed to explore such collaborations with other biotech companies, to help drive drug discovery programs."

Benno Schindelholz, Director of Discovery Technologies and Manager of The Genetics Company's beta-Secretase program, said:

"This collaboration with Morphochem will be a major step for the further development of The Genetics Company small molecule  $\beta$ -Secretase inhibitors into new therapeutic agents for Alzheimer's Disease treatment. The structural information will be integrated into The Genetics Company's iterative and very tightly integrated Medicinal Chemistry - Chemoinformatics - Biological Testing cycle that allows for a very effective lead optimization process."

-ends-

**Morphochem AG** discovers and develops highly selective small molecule compounds for the medicines of tomorrow. Headquartered in Munich, Germany, the Company integrates novel chemistries with biological screening on the basis of its proprietary MolMind<sup>™</sup> technology. Its unique and highly integrated chemical genomics platform provides a continuous flow of novel drug candidates. It is applying its technology to the development of a pipeline of drugs for unmet medical needs in major areas of indications such as thrombosis and infectious diseases as well as partnering its technology with others.

For further information please visit [www.morphochem.com](http://www.morphochem.com)

**The Genetics Company** is a dedicated team of entrepreneurs and scientists focusing on the research, development and commercialization of innovative products for the diagnosis, therapy and therapy monitoring of patients suffering from neurodegenerative disease and cancer. Apart from a set of worldwide unique diagnostic kits and tools for the diagnosis and monitoring of patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease (AD), the Company has identified small molecule inhibitors of BACE (beta-amyloid converting enzyme). It has also identified small molecule inhibitors of two proprietary targets within the Wnt-pathway, which is believed to play a crucial role in colon cancer. Headquartered in Zurich-Schlieren, Switzerland, the Company currently has 30 employees.

For further information, please visit [www.the-genetics.com](http://www.the-genetics.com)