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Dr. Manos Perros named Director of the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases

- *Dr. Manos Perros joins NITD from Pfizer where he served as Vice-President and Head of Antiviral Research*
- *Dr. Perros played a key role in the discovery of maraviroc, an antiviral agent for the treatment of HIV infection and AIDS*
- *As Director, Dr. Perros will oversee research for novel TB, malaria, and Dengue treatments, which NITD will make readily available without profit to poor patients in developing countries*

Basel, December 11, 2009 — Renowned viral disease researcher Dr. Manos Perros has been named Director of the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases (NITD). Based in Singapore, the NITD aims to discover novel treatments for major tropical diseases like Dengue fever, TB and malaria, with a not-for-profit mission. As the new Director, Dr. Perros will bring a breadth of experience in infectious and neglected diseases, including prior projects in malaria, Leishmaniasis, African Sleeping and Chagas diseases, and collaborations with organizations designed to support global efforts to combat neglected diseases in poor and disadvantaged populations.

“Dr. Perros is a distinguished scientist in the field of infective disease research and has contributed to the discovery and development of life saving medicines”, says Paul Herrling, Head of Corporate Research at Novartis and Chairman of the NITD. “Dr. Perros will play a crucial role as Director of the NITD, working with his team and external partners to fulfill the NITD mission.”

The NITD takes a collaborative approach to research, as evidenced by its many long-term partnerships with organizations such as the World Health Organization and Health ministries, as well as non-governmental organizations including: the Stop TB Partnership, the Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative, the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, Médecins Sans Frontières, the Grand Challenges for Global Health Foundation of the National Institute of Health, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the Medicines for Malaria Venture.

“I am honored to join NITD, a sustainable model for meeting critical medical needs of underserved populations globally,” said Dr. Perros. “Novartis’s commitment to drug discovery for endemic diseases in developing countries is remarkable in many respects, and I’m excited to begin working towards meeting our ambitious goal of having at least two drug candidates in patient trials by 2012.”

Prior to NITD, Dr. Perros served as Vice-President and Head of Antiviral Research at Pfizer, and was a key scientist in the discovery of maraviroc, an antiviral agent for treatment of HIV infection and AIDS. He spent most of his career in research projects focused on infectious diseases caused by viral pathogens (HIV, Hepatitis C Virus, influenza) as well as fungal

infections. In addition to overseeing a broad range infectious disease research at Pfizer, Dr. Perros was instrumental in creating partnerships and furthering collaborations with organizations like WHO/TDR, Medicines for Malaria Venture and Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, which expanded the scientific network, knowledge sharing and research capabilities of the organization.

About NITD

The Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases (NITD) is dedicated to finding new medicines to treat neglected, infectious diseases. A small-molecule drug discovery research institute, NITD combines the drug-discovery expertise and cutting-edge technology of Novartis to fight infectious tropical diseases. The NITD represents a major part of Novartis's bid to improve the developing world's access to medicines. The NITD's overarching goal is to discover novel treatments and prevention methods for major tropical diseases. In those developing countries where these diseases are endemic, the Novartis Group intends to make treatments readily available without profit.

The focus of the NITD is to apply Novartis's drug-discovery expertise and cutting-edge technology platforms to fight against infectious diseases that are currently not well covered by modern treatment regimens, particularly Dengue fever, malaria, and tuberculosis.

About Novartis

Novartis provides healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Focused solely on healthcare, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals, preventive vaccines, diagnostic tools and consumer health products. Novartis is the only company with leading positions in each of these areas. In 2008, the Group's continuing operations achieved net sales of USD 41.5 billion and net income of USD 8.2 billion. Approximately USD 7.2 billion was invested in R&D activities throughout the Group. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ approximately 99,000 full-time-equivalent associates and operate in more than 140 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

Disclaimer

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements that can be identified by terminology such as "hope," "will," "work toward developing," "potential," "could," or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding the development of potential new products against Dengue, malaria, or TB, or regarding potential future revenues from such products. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of management regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that Novartis will successfully develop any products against Dengue, malaria, or TB, or that any such products will be submitted or approved for sale in any market. Nor can there be any guarantee that such products will achieve any particular levels of revenue in the future. In particular, management's expectations regarding such products could be affected by, among other things, research and development difficulties, unexpected clinical trial results, including unexpected new clinical data and unexpected additional analysis of existing clinical data; unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; the company's ability to obtain or maintain patent or other proprietary intellectual property protection; competition in general; government, industry and general public pricing pressures; the impact that the foregoing factors could have on the values attributed to the Novartis Group's assets and liabilities as recorded in the Group's consolidated balance sheet, and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG's current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or

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