



Press release – April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – 9.00 AM CET

## **ActoGeniX appoints new Chief Executive Officer**

**Ghent, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - ActoGeniX NV, a biopharmaceutical company, announces today the appointment of Dr. Bernard Coulie as its new Chief Executive Officer. He takes over from Dr. Mark Vaeck, who has elected to step down as CEO to pursue another career opportunity. Dr. Coulie has a strong record of accomplishments in the life sciences sector and is the Chief Medical Officer at ActoGeniX. He will combine his current responsibilities as Chief Medical Officer with his new role as CEO.**

Mr. Patrick Van Beneden, Chairman of ActoGeniX, expressed the excitement of the Board that Dr. Coulie is set to take on the responsibilities as ActoGeniX' CEO. The Board is confident that ActoGeniX will greatly benefit from Dr. Coulie's expertise and proven management skills. His appointment marks a major milestone for the company as it moves its programs to the next stage of development while maintaining the continued enthusiastic commitment of the company's scientists and staff to develop novel therapeutics under his guidance. Mr. Van Beneden also expressed the Board's recognition for Dr. Mark Vaeck, for having brought ActoGeniX to its current stage of development.

Bernard Coulie has over a decade of experience in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. He joined ActoGeniX as co-founder and Vice President Research and Development in 2006. Prior to his appointment to ActoGeniX, he was Therapeutic Area Leader Internal Medicine at Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Pharmaceutical Research and Development Europe, where he was responsible for the successful early clinical development of a number of compounds in various diseases. He joined J&J in 2000 where he held various positions with increasing responsibilities in drug discovery and early clinical development. Between 1997 and 2000, he was a gastroenterologist at the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology of the Mayo Clinic (USA). Bernard holds an MD and a PhD from the University of Leuven. He is a Board-certified Internist and received his MBA from the Vlerick Leuven Ghent Management School.

Upon his appointment Dr. Coulie states: *"Since its start, ActoGeniX has developed a unique and powerful platform for the oral delivery of therapeutic proteins. The company's scientists have progressed this platform towards the development of a broad portfolio of novel therapeutics. ActoGeniX' lead product AG013 is currently being evaluated in a phase 1B study. In addition, the company has products under preclinical development for important diseases, such as gastro-intestinal diseases, immune diseases and cancer supportive care indications. I am proud to work with the ActoGeniX team to drive its development towards its next stage and to become a successful biopharmaceutical company."*



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ActoGeniX

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**About ActoGeniX**

ActoGeniX is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of ActoBiotics™, a novel class of orally available biopharmaceuticals for the targeted treatment of severe diseases with a high medical need. ActoBiotics™ represent a novel concept for oral administration of therapeutic proteins, and are designed to be safer and more effective than injectable biopharmaceuticals. ActoBiotics™ can deliver a wide range of therapeutic peptides and proteins, including cytokines, enzymes, hormones and monoclonal antibodies.

AG013, ActoGeniX's lead product for the treatment of oral mucositis in cancer patients is currently being evaluated in a phase 1B clinical trial in the US. Moreover, in preclinical models, ActoGeniX has confirmed the broad applicability of ActoBiotics™ and its proprietary technology platform for a wide range of diseases, including gastrointestinal, metabolic, immune diseases and allergies.

ActoGeniX was founded in 2006 as a spin-off from VIB and Ghent University. The Company is headquartered in Ghent (Belgium) and employs approximately 20 employees, half of whom are PhD's, MD's, or PharmD's. ActoGeniX raised 35.5 million Euro (approximately 50 million US\$) in two equity financing rounds from a consortium of leading life sciences investors such as Gimv, Biotech Fund Flanders, Baekeland Fund, Biovest (Belgium), Life Sciences Partners, Aescap Venture (The Netherlands) and Ventech (France).

ActoGeniX has a strong and broad intellectual property position with a patent estate encompassing more than 20 distinct patent families. With broad patent claims already granted in major territories like the US and Europe, ActoGeniX is uniquely positioned to successfully exploit the commercial potential of its promising ActoBiotics™.