



Press release – May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 – 8AM CET

## **Dr Pol Bamelis joins ActoGeniX Board of Directors**



**Ghent, Belgium, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007 - Belgian biopharmaceutical company ActoGeniX announces that Dr Pol Bamelis has been appointed member of the Board of Directors. With this appointment ActoGeniX is expanding its expertise base to support future growth and development of the company. Last January ActoGeniX concluded one of the largest Series A rounds among European biotech start-ups in recent years, raising EUR 20 million (USD 26 million) from a syndicate of leading European life sciences investors.**

Dr Bamelis obtained his PhD in chemistry from the Catholic University of Louvain and started his career in 1965 with Bayer AG (Leverkusen, Germany). In 2001 Dr Bamelis retired from Bayer, after a distinguished career of 36 years, including 10 years as a Member of the Board of Management (Vorstand). Within the Board he was Chairman of the Committee for Research and Development and Member of the Board Committee for Technology and Environment. In this role Dr Bamelis was one of the main architects of Bayer's biotechnology strategy and he was closely involved in the many biotech collaborations that Bayer engaged in. From 2002 till 2005 he was Chairman of the Agfa Gevaert Group.

From 2002 Dr Bamelis was Chairman of CropDesign (Ghent, Belgium) until its integration in BASF last year. He is currently Chairman of biotech company Devgen (Ghent, Belgium), and a Board member of several Belgian publicly listed companies such as Innogenetics, Recticel and Sioen. Next to that he is also a Board member of Medigene (Munich, Germany), Oleon and the University of Louvain (Belgium).

Upon his appointment Dr Bamelis stated: *"I am very pleased to join the Board of ActoGeniX, which I consider to be a promising company with a high growth potential. The Company's TopAct™ platform may lead to the creation of an entirely new class of biopharmaceutical products with broad applicability in major disease areas, and is already today generating a rich product pipeline with a clinical-stage lead product."*



Commenting on Dr Bamelis' appointment, Mark Vaeck, CEO of ActoGeniX, said: *"We are absolutely delighted that Dr Pol Bamelis has accepted to join the Board of ActoGeniX. I am convinced that he will make an important contribution to building ActoGeniX into a major, internationally-oriented biopharmaceutical company".* Patrick Van Beneden, Chairman of ActoGeniX, added: *"The Board is pleased and honoured to welcome Dr Pol Bamelis. His vision and expertise will be crucial to assist us in plotting ActoGeniX' future road towards success."*

**Note for the editor: about ActoGeniX**

ActoGeniX was founded in June 2006 as a spin-off from VIB and Ghent University, to apply its proprietary TopAct™ platform for the development of novel biopharmaceuticals. TopAct™ is a delivery system based on living non-pathogenic micro-organisms for the oral administration of therapeutic proteins and peptides. ActoGeniX is using TopAct™ to develop a broad and diverse portfolio of therapeutic products addressing major diseases with high medical need, including gastrointestinal (GI) diseases, auto-immunity, allergy and metabolic diseases. The Company's initial focus is on GI diseases and its lead product has already been successfully tested in a first clinical trial with Crohn's disease patients.

VIB and Ghent University, where TopAct™ was invented, have contributed their patent portfolio exclusively to ActoGeniX. With broad claims already granted, ActoGeniX is now in a unique position to commercially exploit this novel platform.

ActoGeniX believes that TopAct™ represents a paradigm shift in the delivery of biologicals for therapeutic treatment. During the past two decades biopharmaceuticals have emerged as a large and fast-growing segment in the pharmaceutical industry. High specificity and low inherent toxicity are major advantages of protein- or peptide-based therapeutics. However, the injection of relatively large doses of therapeutic proteins in patients results in systemic exposure that may lead to unwanted side effects. Based on its TopAct technology for local and topical delivery of therapeutics in the GI system, ActoGeniX is developing a novel class of biopharmaceuticals with enhanced efficacy and reduced side-effect profile. This represents a significant competitive advantage in today's pharmaceutical market where safety and the absence of adverse effects have become major considerations for the development of new therapies. Also, TopAct-based products are formulated for oral delivery, which means greater patient acceptability and reduced cost.

For more information please visit [www.actogenix.com](http://www.actogenix.com).

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**A high resolution picture of Dr Pol Bamelis is available with Nathalie Verbeeck via [nverbeeck@citigate.be](mailto:nverbeeck@citigate.be).**