



ACS BIOMARKER B.V. CLOSES FINANCING ROUND AND APPOINTS NEW CEO

Amsterdam/Maastricht, May 20, 2011 – ACS Biomarker B.V., a Dutch biotechnology company focused on the discovery, validation and commercialization of novel cardiovascular biomarkers announces the closing of a financing round. The investment is made by the Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam and Limburg Ventures. The funding will be used to further develop the product pipeline and discover novel biomarkers that improve diagnosis, prognosis and management of cardiac diseases.

ACS Biomarker was established in Maastricht (NL) in 2007 as a spin-off company of Maastricht University Medical Centre. Recently the company established a new office and research facility in Amsterdam, besides its existing laboratory in Maastricht. The research of ACS Biomarker is focused on the discovery and validation of novel miRNA and protein-based cardiovascular biomarkers.

The founders of ACS Biomarker, prof. dr. Yigal Pinto, prof. dr. Tilman Hackeng, and prof. dr. Mat Daemen have built a track-record in cardiovascular biomarker discovery. Their research enabled ACS Biomarker to successfully out-license its first protein marker Galectin-3 to BG Medicine, Inc. (NASDAQ ticker symbol: BGMD). The Galectin-3 *in-vitro* diagnostic immune-assay was recently approved by the FDA and is now available in the clinic.

ACS Biomarker established a close collaboration with two renowned cardiovascular research institutes, the Heart Failure Research Center of the AMC Amsterdam and CARIM of UMC Maastricht. Both institutes out-licensed their intellectual property rights originating from protein and miRNA based cardiovascular biomarker research exclusively to ACS Biomarker. “microRNA based biomarkers hold great promise,” says Yigal Pinto, “the first in-man discoveries in the field of heart failure made at AMC Amsterdam can now be quickly validated in large groups of patients so that ACS Biomarker can bring this novel class of biomarkers rapidly towards clinical application.”

Following the financing, ACS Biomarker appointed a new CEO, Heico Breek. He will lead the company’s operations from the offices in Amsterdam and Maastricht. “I’m really pleased to join this successful team, who in just a few years time managed to build an impressive pipeline of novel cardiovascular biomarkers,” says Heico Breek, “my main focus will be on the further expansion and commercialization of this promising biomarker portfolio.”

“I am very excited about the investment in ACS Biomarker and that the company has been able to attract Heico Breek as its new CEO” comments Harm de Vries, partner at the Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam and new member of the company’s Supervisory Board.

Marcel Kloosterman, investment manager at Limburg Ventures and also a new member of the Supervisory Board, adds: “together with the Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam we are confident that the commercialization of ACS Biomarker’s promising product pipeline will result in an improved diagnosis and prognosis of cardiovascular diseases and instable plaques. Cardiovascular risk assessment remains an area of high unmet-need at patient, doctor and insurance level.”



Note for the press:

About ACS Biomarker (www.acsbiomarker.com)

ACS Biomarker B.V. is a Dutch biotechnology company focused on the discovery, validation and commercialization of novel biomarkers that improve prognosis and management of cardiac disease. The company conducts miRNA and protein-based biomarker research in its two research facilities in Amsterdam and Maastricht. ACS Biomarker out-licensed one of its first biomarker discoveries, Galectin-3 to BG Medicine, Inc. The Galectin-3 *in-vitro* diagnostic immune-assay recently obtained FDA approval and is now available in the clinic.

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About the Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam (www.lsfamsterdam.nl)

The Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam B.V. is an independent venture capital fund focusing on early stage companies and (university) spin-outs in the biotechnology and biomedical field with a presence in the Amsterdam region. The fund targets companies that are developing commercially promising products and technologies in life sciences, including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, information technology and other high technology opportunities that offer venture capital returns.

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About Limburg Ventures (www.limburgventures.com)

Limburg Ventures is a regional venture capital fund, set up by DSM Nederland and Limburg's regional development agency LIOF. It invests in promising companies (ranging from startups to stock listed) having breakthrough potential setting up at the Chemelot Campus in Geleen or the Biopartner Center in Maastricht. The focus is on companies which will benefit from and strengthen the clusters of advanced materials, biomaterials and biomedical devices, chemistry and life sciences. Limburg Ventures currently has 16 companies in its portfolio, which consists of Dutch, British, German, Belgian and French companies.

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