

## **News Releases**

### **Syngene enters into research agreement with Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research Inc.**

Biocon's subsidiary, Syngene International, announced that it has entered into a contract research agreement with the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Inc. to carry out research projects to support new drug discovery and development. The contract research agreement was signed recently after a senior contingent from Cambridge, MA, the global headquarters of the Novartis Institutes, visited Syngene in Bangalore last month.

Novartis joins the ranks of leading multinational pharmaceutical companies that form part of Syngene's client portfolio in this area. "We are delighted and proud to work with Novartis. This alliance is yet another step in our evolution as a valuable partner to the global pharmaceutical industry and will further enhance Syngene's ability to conduct world-class research, " said Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CMD of Biocon Ltd.

Commenting on the execution of the agreement, Dr. Jeremy Levin, Global Head, Strategic Alliances of the Novartis Institutes, said: "We have an aggressive program to seek the best collaborations worldwide. Our desire is to develop strong alliances with world-class scientific programs in India, and the relationship with Syngene, and its parent Biocon, offers such an opportunity. "

"This important research agreement with Novartis will provide us a unique opportunity to interact with one of the world's leading scientist teams," said Goutam Das, Chief Operating Officer, Syngene.

Since its founding in 1994 as a subsidiary of Biocon, pioneering Syngene has emerged as one of the country's pre-eminent custom research organizations with multi-disciplinary skills in synthetic chemistry and molecular biology. Currently employing over 300 scientists, the company offers a cost-competitive edge in early stage drug discovery and development to its global clients.

Ranjit Shahani, Country President, Novartis Group in India adds "India has a huge diaspora of talented scientists and chemists and these arrangements are pushing the globalization frontier in R&D in Pharmaceuticals to a new level. Partnerships such as this devolve and optimize lead times and costs to the final advantage for the patient. A robust patent regime post 2005 will only encourage more such collaborations in the future."

### **About Biocon**

Established in 1978, Biocon is India's premier biotechnology company. Biocon and its three subsidiary companies, Syngene International Limited, Clinigene International Limited and Biocon Biopharmaceuticals Limited, form a fully integrated biotechnology enterprise specializing in biopharmaceuticals, custom research, clinical research and enzymes. With successful initiatives in drug discovery, clinical development, bioprocessing and global marketing, Biocon delivers products and solutions to partners and customers across 70 countries.

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