

## **GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG and Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen cooperate on Chlamydia pneumoniae research**

GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG announces that it has entered into a research agreement with the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen, Switzerland. Objective of the research collaboration that has started in September 2002, is the search for new disease-relevant targets and drug candidates. Under terms of the agreement, GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG will acquire the rights for commercialization of diagnostics and therapeutics.

The discovery and prioritization of target genes and proteins causing disease represent a major challenge for both biotechnological and pharmaceutical industries. Although genome data is available for many organisms including humans, the most important task that remains is the functional characterization of the proteins encoded by the genes. GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG has developed potent discovery technologies to identify validated and disease-relevant targets and drug candidates.

The first phase of the collaborative research project between GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG and the Cantonal Hospital in St. Gallen involves an antigenic genome scan of Chlamydia pneumoniae using the MicroGATE™ (microbial genome amplification tag expression screening) technique and will be completed by August 2003. MicroGATE™ has been developed by the scientific founders of GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG and facilitates the rapid and cost-efficient characterization of viral and bacterial immunomes. The intracellular bacterium C. pneumoniae is a frequent cause of acute respiratory tract disease, and is most likely involved in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease and asthmatic disease. The serological diagnosis of C. pneumoniae remains difficult because of a high cross-reactivity with other Chlamydia species such as C. psittaci or C. trachomatis. Development of improved diagnostic tests will therefore be beneficial for the treatment of many patients.

"The research department at the Cantonal Hospital in St. Gallen has full access to differentially screened sera from Chlamydia-infected patients, provides a state-of-the-art infrastructure, and has highly skilled scientists to perform the genome scan of C. pneumoniae." Comments S. Rohmann MD PhD, CEO of GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG. "We are looking forward to a productive collaboration".

For further inquiries / contact:

### **GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG**

Mrs. Anja Gruschwitz  
Freiligrathstrasse 12  
D-55131 Mainz  
Germany

phone: (+49) 6131 / 1440 109

fax: (+49) 6131 / 1440 111

[info@ganymed-pharmaceuticals.com](mailto:info@ganymed-pharmaceuticals.com)

### **Kantonsspital St. Gallen**

Mrs. Angelika Heuberger  
Rorschacher Strasse 85  
CH-9007 St. Gallen  
Switzerland

phone: (+41) 71 / 4942 381

fax: (+41) 71 / 4942 880

[angelika.heuberger@kssg.ch](mailto:angelika.heuberger@kssg.ch)