

GANYMED and the University of Mainz broaden their successful cooperation in the fight against cancer

Mainz, Germany (August 31, 2005) – GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG and the III. Department of Internal Medicine of the Johannes Gutenberg University announced today the broadening of their successful cooperation in the fight against cancer. Goal of the cooperation is the identification and characterization of new target antigens for the immune therapy of solid tumors.

During the last two years, the close cooperation of GANYMED and the University of Mainz has led to the identification of novel and uniquely cancer specific antigens. Motivated by these successes the partners decided to cooperate even closer in the future. "The identification of an increasing number of 'ideal' tumor antigens, which only occur in tumors and not in healthy tissue, will decisively advance the development of new antibody therapeutics against solid tumors", Dr. Rainer Wessel, President & CEO of GANYMED, emphasized the importance of the cooperation. "The strong support of the clinic with its many years of experience and great resources is a tremendous advantage for GANYMED," he added.

PD Dr. Ugur Sahin, project leader at the III. Department of Internal Medicine welcomed the broadening of the cooperation with the words: "The knowledge gained through the joint efforts of the University and GANYMED demonstrates the increasing importance of cooperations between academic centers and private companies. We are very pleased that we will continue the development of novel cancer therapeutics together with GANYMED."

GANYMED Pharmaceuticals AG, a spin-off from the Universities Mainz and Zurich, is building a sustainable pipeline of monoclonal antibody therapeutics against solid tumors, where current therapies are poor and where there is an overriding medical need. The therapeutic efficacy of current solid cancer therapeutics is severely limited, because their molecular targets are elevated in a subset of a particular cancer but they are also found widely in normal tissues. In contrast, GANYMED's pan cancer surface antigens are uniquely specific for cancer tissues and can be expected to show greater therapeutic efficacy and better safety allowing significant reduction in time to market. The Company will market its cancer therapeutics after clinical or animal proof of concept has been demonstrated to large pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

The III. Department of Internal Medicine of the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz under the lead of its Director, Prof. Christoph Huber, is internationally renowned for its excellence in therapy, clinical research and teaching in the field of Oncology and Tumor Immunology. The Clinic has a long standing experience in the performance of clinical studies in cooperation with academic partners and pharmaceutical companies.

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