

## **Galantos Pharma Receives Research Grant**

*Expansion of technology platform*

**Mainz, May 28, 2008** – Galantos Pharma GmbH, a biopharmaceutical company developing natural product derivatives to treat Alzheimer’s disease (AD) today announced that it has been granted EUR 366.000 from Investitions- und Strukturbank Rheinland-Pfalz (ISB) GmbH, the investment and economic development bank of the German federal state of Rheinland-Pfalz. The grant was awarded under the technology development program of the ISB as a non-repayable grant covering part of the technology platform development effort of Galantos Pharma.

“The funds will allow us to expand our technology platform for the optimization of compounds targeting nicotinic acetylcholine receptors with subunit specificity and selectivity against muscarinic acetylcholine receptors“, said Dr Andreas Köpke, managing director and CBO of Galantos Pharma. “These compounds have considerable use in Alzheimer’s disease and other psychiatric indications.”

Galantos Pharma is optimizing an approved Alzheimer’s medication for improved brain penetration and reduced side effect profile as well as exploring two neuroprotective drugs – an allosteric potentiating ligand (APL) targeting nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in general (nAChRs) and a subtype-specific APL targeting the  $\alpha 7$ -subunit of nicotinic acetylcholine receptors.

APLs enhance the sensitivity of receptors and therefore overcome the well-established shortcomings of direct agonists, which are receptor desensitization and down-regulation of expression. Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors are widely distributed on neurons and other cells in the central nervous system and are involved in the regulation of cell survival and programmed cell death. It is also known that these receptors are increasingly lost in Alzheimer’s Disease. Results in animal models indicate that enhancing the sensitivity of nAChRs has considerable therapeutic potential in AD and other CNS-related diseases.

The lead candidate of Galantos Pharma is Memogain, a derivative of galantamine, a nicotinic acetylcholine receptor sensitizer and weak choline esterase inhibitor, which is already marketed for the treatment of AD since 2000 (EU) and 2001 (USA) respectively. Memogain offers improved efficacy at reduced adverse events and is expected to move into clinical development in Alzheimer’s disease (AD) in 2009.

Fur further details, please visit our website [www.galantos.com](http://www.galantos.com).

### **About Galantos Pharma GmbH**

Galantos Pharma GmbH, which was founded in 2005, is developing innovative drugs for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases and is focused on the improvement of marketed drugs and natural substances for the treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease. The company has raised a total of EUR 3.5 million in two financing rounds.

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