Novartis honors scientists for outstanding contributions to research and development

Basel, November 15, 2004 – Novartis honored nine scientists from the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR), Pharma Development and Consumer Health division with the Novartis Leading Scientist Award, recognizing their exceptional contributions to research and development.

The Novartis Leading Scientist Awards – granted this year for the seventh time – are part of the company’s global VIVA (Vision, Innovation, Value, Achievement) program, which was established in 1998 to promote creativity and innovation in research and development. The awards are designed to recognize outstanding contributions made by scientists working in research and development and carry a prize of CHF 25,000, as well as the right to use the title “Novartis Leading Scientist.”

At the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, the Leading Scientist Award is being granted to the following scientists: Dr. Guido Bold for his significant contributions to the identification and development of targeted anticancer agents such as PTK787; Dr. Sabine Geisse for her significant contributions in providing state-of-the-art experimental protein technologies which are key in early R & D; Dr. Peter Ertl for his development of user-friendly web based software tools which allow scientists to calculate important molecular properties and drug transport characteristics; Dr. Stuart Bevan for the establishing of genomic technologies for the discovery and validation of novel drug targets, which resulted in five Phase I compounds and two Phase II compounds; and Dr. Gary Ksander for his successful management of projects within Cardiovascular Research which among others lead to finding one inhibitor that is currently in development as a combination product with Diovan®.

“Research is at the very core of our mission at Novartis—to discover and develop better medicines to help treat patients around the world,” said Dr. Mark Fishman, Head of the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research. “On behalf of Novartis, I’d like to personally thank these individuals for their tremendous achievement.”

In Pharma Development, the following three scientists are being honored with the Leading Scientist Award: Dr. Kurt Forrer for his outstanding contribution to the modernization and improvement of the analysis of Biotech Products; Dr. John M. Kovarik for his excellent work in the areas of pharmacokinetic and exposure-response modeling for compounds such as FTY 720, Simulect®, Certican®, and Neoral®; and Dr. Jürgen Sigg for his pioneering role in the development of novel liquid dosage forms.

“With these awards we recognize the exceptional contributions made by these scientists working in research and development,” added Dr. Joerg Reinhardt, Global Head of Pharma Development.
In Consumer Health division, Jean Steffan from the Novartis Animal Health unit was granted the Leading Scientist Award for his contribution in the development of Atopica®, a key product of this unit.

**About Novartis**

Novartis AG (NYSE: NVS) is a world leader in pharmaceuticals and consumer health. In 2003, the Group's businesses achieved sales of USD 24.9 billion and a net income of USD 5.0 billion. The Group invested approximately USD 3.8 billion in R&D. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ about 80,000 people and operate in over 140 countries around the world. For further information please consult http://www.novartis.com.

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For pictures of the award ceremony please consult URL:  
http://novartis.imagedirector.net/album?album_code=3vjlpqsre8e2

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