



For release at 5:00 PM ET, June 19, 2007

**Contact:**

Judy Mathew, +1 (404) 601-1430, ext. 1416

## **RFS Pharma and Genoscience Pharma Sign Joint Venture Agreement to Discover and Develop Protease Inhibitors**

**Atlanta, GA, USA and Marseille, France, June 19, 2007** -- RFS Pharma, LLC, and Genoscience Pharma today announced the formation of a drug discovery joint venture to develop promising protease inhibitors for the treatment of life-threatening viral infections. Protease inhibitors are a class of antiviral drugs that block the viral protease enzyme. When the enzyme is blocked, the virus is unable to infect new cells.

Dr. Raymond F. Schinazi, Founder and Executive Director of RFS Pharma, said, "Genoscience's excellent molecular modeling capabilities, coupled with our expertise in pharmacology and drug development, will accelerate the identification and development of protease inhibitors as clinical candidates. This strategic alliance expands the breath of our company beyond our expertise in nucleoside analogs. Genoscience also provides RFS Pharma with a presence in Europe for further expansion."

Under the agreement, RFS Pharma and Genoscience will collaborate on the discovery, optimization, and development of lead compounds into therapeutic agents. Dr. Philippe Halfon, Founder and CEO of Genoscience, said, "We are confident in the collaboration's ability to develop novel protease inhibitors, and we look forward to a very productive relationship with RFS Pharma. This is our first joint venture with a US company, and it should accelerate our efforts."

This partnership will further support both companies' continuing commitment to discover and develop novel protease inhibitors, aimed at tackling the development of viral resistance. At a time when the number of people diagnosed with life-threatening viral infections is expected to increase significantly, the discovery of next generation protease inhibitors, with improved efficacy, pharmacology, safety, and convenience over current regimens, is essential.

## **About RFS Pharma, LLC**

RFS Pharma, LLC, was founded in September 2004 and is located in a 26,500 sq. ft. state-of-the-art research facility in Tucker, Georgia. RFS Pharma is a privately owned biotech company committed to the discovery and development of antiviral agents and other human therapeutics. The company capitalizes on its expertise in nucleoside chemistry to develop drugs to combat infections caused by drug-resistant HIV and hepatitis viruses. RFS Pharma's lead product candidate is Amdoxovir (DAPD, AMDX), which is in advanced Phase 2 clinical studies for the treatment of HIV-1 infections under a US IND. For further information about RFS Pharma, please refer to <http://www.rfspharma.com>.

## **About Genoscience Pharma**

Genoscience, a biopharmaceutical company located in Marseille, France, is focused on the development of new drugs for the treatment of viral diseases as HCV. Genoscience's innovative technology platform, which combines internal expertise in resistance with unique molecular modeling through its proprietary software (GenMol™), allows for the development of highly targeted molecules, taking into account the phenomenon of resistance. For further information about Genoscience, please refer to <http://www.genosciencepharma.com>.

## **Forward-looking Statements**

"Safe Harbor" Statement: Any statements in this press release that relate to the Companies' expectations are forward-looking statements, within the meaning of the US Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Since this information may involve risks and uncertainties and be subject to change at any time, the Companies' actual results may differ materially from expected results. The Companies disclaim any obligation to update the statements contained in this press release.

SOURCE: RFS Pharma, LLC, and Genoscience Pharma

#####