



**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

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**Neovacs, Leader in Polyclonal Antibody Therapies, Strengthens  
Management Team to Support Development Phase**

Paris, February 2, 2004 - Neovacs, a world-leading company in the field of anti-cytokine and anti-viral active immunization, is pleased to announce the appointments of Patrick Larcier, Pharm.D., MBA, as Director, Clinical Development and Regulatory Affairs, and Thierry Villette, Ph.D. Chem., MBA, as Director, Manufacturing & Pharmaceutical Affairs. These new appointments take place at a time when Neovacs is accelerating the preclinical and clinical development of several of its products.

Patrick gained a 14-year international experience in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry and brings to Neovacs his expertise in clinical development and regulatory strategy. He is in charge of the clinical operations activities, in relation with clinicians, and is responsible for the regulatory strategy with the drug agencies (FDA, EMEA). Before joining Neovacs, Patrick was Associate Director Regulatory Affairs, International, within Biogen Europe (Biogen-Idex) since 1999. He worked as Clinical Project Manager with Quintiles, Parexel International and SmithKline Beecham International (GSK), during several years. He began his career as an International Clinical Research Associate at Abbott Laboratories in 1990.

Patrick is a Doctor in Pharmacy from the Medical and Pharmacy University of Dijon (France) and holds an MBA from the ESSEC Business School (Paris, France).

“I am particularly pleased to join Neovacs, an innovating company in the fields of AIDS, cancer and auto-immune diseases. The active specific immunization pathway brings promising therapeutic perspectives for patients suffering from these diseases and for treating physicians, “said Patrick.

Thierry, Director of Manufacturing and Pharmaceutical Affairs of Neovacs, brings his 7-year international experience in pharmaceutical development and technology transfer, his command of the regulatory framework and his connection to the contract manufacturing industry. Being in charge of the industrial development of Neovacs products, he will interface with the internal research team, with the CMO's and the drug agencies. Thierry was Head of Pharmaceutical Development for Galderma North-American operations since 1998. This position included technology transfer to contract manufacturing organizations. Thierry started his career in 1990 as a medicinal chemist for Roussel Uclaf (Aventis) in the fields of antibiotics, then for Galderma on Vitamin D3 analogs.

Thierry received a chemical engineering degree from Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie de Paris and a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Pierre & Marie Curie (Paris 6). He also holds an MBA from HEC School of Management, Paris.

"Joining Neovacs dynamic team is for me a fascinating challenge: the innovative concept and structure of Kinoid and Toxoid protein conjugates are a therapeutic and a technological breakthrough as compared to monoclonal antibodies. Neovacs therapeutic vaccines, with the induction of highly potent human polyclonal antibodies, offer the second generation of antibody-based therapeutics and address a bursting multi-billion dollar market." stated Thierry, who also said he was "appealed by the number of development projects, the clinical proof-of-concept perspectives and the strength of the IP".

Alain Huriez, CEO of Neovacs, stated he was "delighted to reinforce the management team with Patrick and Thierry who will contribute in boosting the development of priority projects, with the expected preparation of clinical trials in the forthcoming months."

## ***About Neovacs***

Neovacs, a spin-off company from Pierre et Marie Curie Paris VI University, was founded in 1993 by Professor Daniel Zagury, M.D., one of the best-known French immunologists and AIDS scientists. The company's research and development has contributed to an impressive number of broad patents and potential drug candidates to treat AIDS, cancer, autoimmune and allergic diseases. Neovacs is recognized as the pioneer in therapeutic vaccines against human cytokines (*Kinoids*) and immunosuppressive viral proteins (*Toxoids*). Currently, humanized monoclonal antibodies are widely used to neutralize cytokines and treat patients with cytokine-related diseases. In contrast to exogenous monoclonal antibody therapies, Neovacs' vaccine approach can induce a natural and potent polyclonal antibody response by the patient himself that may last longer, require fewer administrations, and may not encounter common antibody resistance. Neovacs benefits from an excellent R&D platform, located at two sites within the Pierre et Marie Curie Paris VI University. In 1999, Neovacs signed a development and licensing agreement with Aventis Pasteur for one of its first promising products, *Tat Toxoid*, a leading candidate for treatment of HIV infections. Tat Toxoid is being developed in collaboration with Aventis Pasteur. Aventis Pasteur, the vaccines business of Aventis, is one of the world's largest vaccine producers.

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