



## Press Release

**CMP Therapeutics Ltd (CMPT) announces completion of €4.5 million series A funding round to develop a treatment for respiratory allergies.**

Banbury 31 January 2006

CMP Therapeutics is pleased to announce the closing of its Series A funding round provided by Inventages Venture Capital Investments Inc. who invested €1.0m as the first tranche of a total investment of €4.5m. The introduction to Inventages was made through the Oxfordshire Investment Opportunity Network, (OION), Europe's leading technology business angel network.

Oxana Kukhaneva, investment manager at Inventages stated that "The funds will be used to take this novel compound for treatment of respiratory allergies through pre-clinical development to the start of a Phase II trials."

Bruce Savage, CEO, CMPT, commented that, "Having an investor who is prepared to fund the company through to completion of Phase II trials will mean that the management can be focused on demonstrating efficacy for the treatment of hay fever in as short a time as possible".

CMPT uses a special preparation of micronised chitin prepared from prawn shells delivered as a nasal spray. Here it acts as an immune enhancer through a well established pharmacological mode of action. Efficacy has been demonstrated against a wide range of common hay fever allergens, and against house dust mite allergy. The technology will create a pipeline of chitin based anti-allergy and anti-infective products, that should offer equivalent efficacy to established products, but with no side effects.

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**About CMP Therapeutics Ltd**

The company was founded in May 2005 to commercialise work done in the MRC Immunobiology unit, University of Oxford by its scientific founder, Dr Peter Strong. He discovered that micronised chitin could elicit an up lift in innate immunity thus conferring protection against allergens and infectious agents. Chitin is a naturally occurring carbohydrate that is found in fungi and in the shells of prawns and crabs. The micronised chitin mimics fungal spores, which are made of chitin. They are recognized and removed by cells in the respiratory tract. During this process chemical signals called cytokines are produced which enhance the immune system in such a way as to redirect the immune system away from an allergic response, to a normal protective response. The development of immune modulators is a fast growing area in biopharmaceuticals.

The incidence of allergic disease has been increasing at a phenomenal rate in the twentieth century. The World Health Organisation calls it the 'Number one immunopathological problem'. Based on current estimates, the number of people with allergies may well be as many as 50% of the population by the year 2015. Current drugs are limited in their efficacy and offer temporary relief, rather than clearing the symptoms in the long term. Furthermore they are associated with a range of side effects.

**About Inventages Investment Capital Inc.**

Inventages Venture capital is a fund management company specializing in life sciences, with business offices in the Bahamas, Switzerland and New Zealand. It currently manages five funds, with a total of approximately € 1 billion. The first fund supports pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Funds two to five have a strong focus on prevention. They were raised between 2002 and 2005, with strategic partners, most notably Nestlé SA, acting as cornerstone investors. Inventages concentrates on selective investments in the field of disease prevention and chronic disease management. Portfolio companies are intensively supported and can leverage the depth of business experience and the strong relationships that the Inventages' partners have with the global pharmaceutical, cosmetics, food and biotech industries.