

Basel, 2 May 2001

Roche Forms an Integrated Cancer Care Unit to Accelerate the Development of Innovative Cancer Care Solutions

Creating an entirely new kind of healthcare business, Roche Diagnostics announced today the formation of an Integrated Cancer Care Unit. This unit will target the complexity and diversity of cancer with new technologies and markers for cancer diagnostics, in order to link diagnosis and therapy to the benefit of patients. Roche will be investing 100 million Swiss Francs over the next five years into this innovative strategy.

As the world leader in the development of sophisticated diagnostic systems, Roche Diagnostics is poised to benefit considerably by the new generation of targeted drugs – many of which will need diagnostic testing as an integral part of their use in patient treatment.

Heino von Prondzynski, Division Head of Roche Diagnostics, said: "The new Integrated Cancer Care Unit will provide a continuum of highly specific and sensitive diagnostic tests that will enable early cancer detection, assure delivery of the right drug to the right cancer patient and enable monitoring of the patients for optimal outcomes. Our new business offering follows the emerging trend for patient stratification of drug treatment by utilising diagnostic tests and translation of contextual diagnostic information into treatment schedules. Roche's Herceptin and Xeloda are the first examples of successful cancer care programmes".

Collaboration with Cancer Centers and Pharmaceutical Companies

To further strengthen the Integrated Cancer Care Unit's capabilities, Roche Diagnostics will seek to form collaborations and alliances with Clinical Cancer Centers for novel clinical validation concepts and will forge direct business relationships with the Roche Pharmaceutical Division and other major pharmaceutical firms developing anti-cancer treatments.

The cancer initiative by Roche Diagnostics is building on the expertise and the oncology programmes developed by the Integrated Health Care Solutions initiative started by Roche Pharmaceuticals in 1998.

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading research-oriented healthcare groups in the fields of pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and vitamins. Roche's innovative products and services address prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, thus enhancing people's well-being and quality of life.

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