



Basel, 28 August 2001

Roche does not intend to acquire Bayer

Several media reports have mentioned Roche as a possible buyer of Bayer or its pharmaceuticals business. As a general rule, Roche does not comment on market rumors. However, in this case, to avoid the spread of further speculation generated by the detailed comments of unknown sources, Roche is stating that this rumor has no basis in fact. Roche has not held talks with Bayer about an acquisition nor agreed on a meeting with Bayer.

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 diseases, thus enhancing people's well being and quality of life.

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