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Roche renews support for Roche Organ Transplantation Research Foundation for a further three years

Roche announced today that it will extend the support for the Roche Organ Transplantation Research Foundation (ROTRF) for a further three years until 2006. The five million Swiss franc annual donation to the independent research foundation was established in 1998 for an initial period of five years. This new extension demonstrates a long-term commitment to research to improve the life for thousands of patients undergoing organ transplantations every year.

ROTRF is an independent charity, which directly supports innovative research projects attracting new researchers with innovative and novel scientific ideas to meet unmet medical needs in solid organ transplantation.

Prof. Phil Halloran, Chairman of the Board of Trustees said: "We are deeply grateful to Roche for the continued commitment to this Foundation. ROTRF will be able to fund and promote research in many countries with these new funds, and patients undergoing organ transplants will ultimately benefit. The knowledge generated from this research will have spin-off benefits for other disciplines."

William M. Burns, Head of Roche's Pharmaceuticals Division, said: "Roche has been very impressed at the calibre of studies being supported by the ROTRF, and the decision to extend the financial support of the Foundation reflects the commitment of Roche to the Transplantation community. We are proud of our association to this worthy Foundation."

Roche in transplantation

Roche continues to expand its commitment to improve the long-term outcomes of transplantation while enhancing the quality of life for the patient. Roche has developed three innovative therapies that improve graft and post-transplant health: **CellCept** and **Zenapax** prevent the acute rejection of the newly transplanted organ, offering both physicians and patients the possibility of a low toxicity immunosuppressive regimen, and **Cymevene/Cytovene**, developed for the prevention and treatment of cytomegalovirus infection.

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 needs for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, thus enhancing people's well-being and quality of life.

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