

Basel, 3 October 2002

### **Research Collaboration Agreement between New Chugai and Roche**

Roche and Chugai today announced the signing of a broad-ranging collaboration agreement on small molecule drug research.

Under the terms of the agreement, Roche and Chugai will collaborate closely to develop common technology platforms designed to facilitate the creation and advancement of research projects. The agreement will enable the two partners to share information through Roche's leading-edge data management system, which links all of the Roche Group's global research centres. This enhanced knowledge sharing capability will allow scientists at all research sites to make use of coherent data sets, thus enabling Roche and Chugai to further broaden their respective capabilities and areas of expertise in the complex field of small molecule development.

Chugai, a member of the Roche Group, will build on its strengths in oncology by integrating the former Nippon Roche Research Centre in Kamakura into its R&D network, which includes Chugai's flagship Fuji Gotemba Research Laboratories.

"The present agreement will guarantee the continuity of excellent research, and we firmly believe that a common global technology platform will help to select promising new compounds and make the drug discovery process more efficient. By using Roche's outstanding Multi-Dimensional Drug Optimisation (MDO) programme and excellent chemoinformatics systems, we will create new knowledge leading to innovative medicines which address unmet medical needs," said Jonathan Knowles, Head of Global Research at Roche.

The agreement will equip Chugai with a research technology platform enabling it to discover chemically synthesised drugs at a globally competitive level. Together with an expanding focus on genome research, proteomics and life science technology, the New Chugai will have a solid business base on which to grow into a leading Japanese pharmaceuticals company with strong drug discovery capabilities.

#### **About Roche**

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading research-oriented healthcare groups. The company's core pharmaceuticals and diagnostics businesses provide innovative products and services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, thus enhancing people's health and quality of life. Research at Roche focuses on significant unmet medical needs in the management of diseases of the central nervous system and genitourinary tract, metabolic disorders, inflammation, bone diseases, cancer, vascular diseases and virology.