



Foundation stone-laying ceremony for Research and Development Building 97

23 January 2009

Speech of William M. Burns
CEO Pharma Division Roche

(Check against delivery)

Frau Regierungsrätin Schneider,
Distinguished Guests,
Media representatives,
Fellow Roche Colleagues,

Today, some six months after construction started, we celebrate our next important milestone with this stone-laying ceremony. Building 97 is more than our new Technical Research and Development Building. It is a symbol of our continued growth, commitment to research and development and confidence in our future.

- Building 97 will be a place of innovation and excellence. However, we must always keep in mind that it is the dedication of our colleagues that ultimately brings a building to life.
- I congratulate everyone involved with this project. It has demanded, and will continue to demand, an enormous coordination of effort and resources.

Innovation is at the core of what we do. Without innovation we would not be able to bring differentiated medicines onto the market. This is the motivation for all of us here at Roche – a passion to make a difference and improve the lives of patients globally.

- Our Technical Research and Development colleagues play a critical role in moving development projects from discovery to launch. Their focus is creating the most effective formulation, based on tolerability, bioavailability, stability and technical feasibility. And when our teams have decided whether a medicine is to be marketed as a tablet, capsule, liquid or a pre-filled syringe, the remaining technical research and development work will be performed here.
- As we have just heard from Jan, when Building 97 opens its doors in 2011, for the first time the two areas of Technical Research and Development will be located in the same

building. Technology and expertise will come together in closer collaboration to develop innovative medicines that are well tolerated, safe and easy for patients to use.

We must always keep in mind that innovation is much more than fostering creative culture and enabling scientific discoveries for new medicines. Innovation is the backbone of our strategy. This is why we continue to invest in research and development. In 2007, Roche spent more than 8.4 billion Swiss francs on research and development. About one fifth of this global expenditure is in Switzerland.

Building 97 is more than a 250 million Swiss franc investment. It demonstrates our commitment to Roche Pharma research and development. Building 97 is just one of the ways that we are ensuring the continued growth of the Roche Basel site and the Roche Group, worldwide.

This investment that is delivering innovative medicines to patients is also creating value for Switzerland. There is global acknowledgement that Switzerland's innovation performance is among the best in the world. We are proud that Roche is a key contributor.

- One in 11 francs spent on research and development in Switzerland originates from Roche.
- We are one of the top three healthcare research institutions and one of the ten largest private-sector employers in Switzerland.
- We employ 3,100 colleagues throughout Switzerland in R&D – a figure that is set to rise. More than 600 new Roche jobs were created last year. And every new job in the pharmaceutical industry creates more than two additional jobs in Switzerland.

Investing in people and resources is most effective when there is collaboration and open dialogue. We are fortunate in having a proactive cantonal government that fosters innovation

in business and the research sector. I should like to express my recognition here for the support given by the Basel Council.

Today, as we lay the foundation stone, Building 97 becomes a key milestone in the history of the Basel site. But what we are also doing today is continuing to build our future.

Thank you for coming and celebrating with us today.