



## PRESS RELEASE

---

9 March 2005

### **Synairgen signs collaboration agreement with Centocor**

Synairgen plc, based in Southampton, UK is pleased to announce a collaboration with Centocor Inc of Pennsylvania USA, part of the Johnson and Johnson family of companies. The details of the collaboration have not been disclosed.

Centocor is a leading biopharmaceutical company that creates, acquires and markets cost-effective therapies that yield long-term benefits for patients and the healthcare community. Centocor is dedicated to the research and development of treatments for a wide range of diseases including cancer, infectious diseases, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases and Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Disorders (IMID), such as arthritis and inflammatory skin diseases.

Centocor's products, developed primarily through monoclonal antibody technology, help physicians deliver innovative treatments to improve human health and restore patients' quality of life.

Synairgen specialises in respiratory diseases and is investigating the underlying mechanisms of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in order to develop new therapies. It has three collaborations in place already with Cambridge Antibody Technology, Merck Frosst and a large North American biotechnology company.

Commenting on the collaboration, Richard Marsden, Managing Director said: *"We are pleased to announce our collaboration with Centocor. This is our fourth collaboration since the Company started and we are delighted with the progress we are making."*

-Ends-

**Synairgen**  
Richard Marsden

**Tel: 02380 512 800**

**Hogarth Partnership**  
Melanie Toyne-Sewell / Georgina Briscoe

**Tel: 020 7357 9477**

**Centocor**  
Michael Parks

**Tel: 001 215 325 4010**

## **Notes for Editors:**

### **1. Synairgen**

Synairgen was founded by Professors Stephen Holgate, Donna Davies and Ratko Djukanovic (the Founders), a world-renowned respiratory research team from the University of Southampton (the University), and spun-out from the University in June 2003, supported by funding from IP2IPO Group plc. In October 2004 the Company floated on AiM, raising £10.0 million (£9.0 million net of expenses) to enhance its research and development capabilities and invest in its proprietary programmes.

### **2. Asthma**

According to the World Health Organisation, between 100 and 150 million people around the globe suffer from asthma and this number is rising. Asthma prevalence in the UK is now 3-4 times higher in adults and 6 times higher in children than it was 25 years ago, and currently it accounts for 1,400 deaths in the UK per year. In the United States, there are approximately 17-20 million sufferers and the cost is estimated to be about \$13 billion per annum. There are limited therapies available for severe asthma and the potential for treatments satisfying this largely unmet need is significant, as demonstrated by the projected sales of \$3.3 billion in 2012 for Xolair<sup>®</sup>.

### **3. COPD**

COPD encompasses a number of diseases, including the smoking-related lung diseases, chronic bronchitis and emphysema. The prevalence of COPD is estimated at 16-17% in the US and Europe. Globally it is killing 2.7 million people per annum and is forecast to become the third largest cause of death in the world by 2020. COPD is underserved by current treatments.

Sales of pharmaceutical products used to treat asthma and COPD in major pharmaceutical markets in 2002 were estimated to be \$7.0 billion and \$2.7 billion respectively and are forecast to reach \$12.8 billion and \$5.8 billion in 2012.