



## **Neovacs names Jean-Jacques Bertrand, former CEO of Aventis Pasteur, as its Chairman**

**Paris, 11th May 2005** -- Neovacs, biotechnology firm and leader in antibody therapies, has just named Jean-Jacques Bertrand as its Chairman.

“I am proud to pass the baton to Jean-Jacques Bertrand, former Chairman of Aventis Pasteur and member of the “CEO Circle” of Truffle Venture” declared Dr Philippe Pouletty, previous Chairman of Neovacs who remains one of its directors. He added: “Mr. Bertrand is internationally recognised for his vast experience in the pharmaceutical industry and his involvement in the public health arena; Jean-Jacques Bertrand’s strong commitment to Neovacs confirms and strengthens the company’s international outlook”.

“I would like to thank Neovacs and its shareholders for the trust they have placed in me and I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with such a dynamic and experienced team, led by its managing director, Dr Alain Huriez. I am very impressed by Neovacs’ highly promising portfolio of therapeutic medicines and vaccines, targeting unsatisfied medical needs, and I am convinced that our partnership will be a very successful one”, declared Jean-Jacques Bertrand, new Chairman of Neovacs.

Mr. Bertrand has made his mark in the worldwide pharmaceutical industry through the various high-ranking positions he has held, including Managing Director of Rhône Poulenc Rorer from 1990 to 1994, then Chief Executive Officer of Aventis Pasteur, number one in the world for vaccines, until 2003. Mr. Bertrand was honoured for his commitment to public health in the field of vaccines by the Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute who awarded him the humanitarian aid prize in 2001. Mr. Bertrand has also occupied directorships including Chairman of the Board of CANVAC, the Canadian network for vaccine research and Vice-Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Guerbet.

Dr Philippe Pouletty is the founder and Managing Director of Truffle Venture, as well as a major shareholder of Neovacs, Chairman of France Biotech, the French association of biotechnology firms and founder and director of

several biotechnology firms in North America and Europe, of which several are listed on the stock exchange and have successfully developed many new medicines.

#### About NEOVACS :

NEOVACS, a spin-off company from Pierre et Marie Curie Paris VI University, was founded in 1993 by Professor Daniel Zagury, M.D., one of the best-known French immunologists and AIDS scientists. The company's research and development has contributed to an impressive number of broad patents and potential drug candidates to treat AIDS, cancer, autoimmune and allergic diseases. NEOVACS is recognized as the pioneer in therapeutic vaccines against human cytokines (Kinoids) and immunosuppressive viral proteins (Toxoids). Currently, humanized monoclonal antibodies are widely used to neutralize cytokines and treat patients with cytokine-related diseases. In contrast to exogenous monoclonal antibody therapies, NEOVACS' vaccine approach can induce a natural and potent polyclonal antibody response by the patient himself that may last longer, require fewer administrations, and may not encounter common antibody resistance. NEOVACS benefits from an excellent R&D platform, located at two sites within the Pierre et Marie Curie Paris VI University. In 1999, NEOVACS signed a development and licensing agreement with Aventis Pasteur for one of its first promising products, Tat Toxoid, a leading candidate for treatment of HIV infections. Tat Toxoid is being developed in collaboration with Sanofi-Pasteur. Sanofi-Pasteur, the vaccines business of Sanofi-Aventis, is one of the world's largest vaccine producers.

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