



## **Epiontis Announces Collaboration with Genzyme Corporation to Develop DNA Methylation Markers for Cellular Therapeutics**

**Berlin, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005** Epiontis GmbH today announced a collaboration agreement with Genzyme Corporation aimed at the development of quality control tests for Genzyme's cartilage repair product Carticel®. The collaboration will exploit Epiontis' DNA methylation technology, providing several highly sensitive assay techniques for cell purity and identity as well as robust tissue specific biomarkers, which act as cellular barcodes. It is planned that the jointly developed quality control test will be applied in Genzyme's manufacturing process and acceptance by the FDA is intended.

"We are very pleased to partner our quality control efforts with Epiontis," said Ann Merrifield, President, Genzyme Biosurgery. "Its technology for DNA methylation is an innovative approach that will help us to demonstrate the high quality standards of our cell therapy product, Carticel®."

Under the terms of the collaboration, Epiontis will receive R&D funding, milestone payments, and technology license payments in exchange for the grant of an exclusive collaboration in the field of cartilage repair and an option to develop the technology in broader applications. The exact financial details of the collaboration were not disclosed.

"Epiontis previously accomplished technological development, patent protection and scientific publication of DNA methylation markers in the field of Regenerative Medicine. Initiating the commercialization of this technology with the leading player in Regenerative Medicine is the consequent next step in Epiontis' development", stated Sven Olek, CEO of Epiontis. "Our long term mission is to establish DNA methylation analysis as the gold standard for quality control in tissue engineering and cell therapy."

### About Epiontis

Epiontis ("Epigenetics on Tissues") is an innovative biotechnology company that exploits the biological phenomenon of DNA methylation as an analytical tool for quality control and process optimization in Regenerative Medicine. The company was spun off from Epigenomics in 2003. A far reaching licensing contract with Epigenomics AG allows Epiontis exclusive use of the largest patent portfolio in DNA methylation technology for Regenerative Medicine.

### About Genzyme Corporation

One of the world's leading biotechnology companies, Genzyme is dedicated to making a major positive impact on the lives of people with serious diseases. Founded in 1981, Genzyme has grown from a small start-up to a diversified enterprise with more than 8,000 employees in locations spanning the globe and 2004 revenues of \$2.2 billion. With many established products and services helping patients in more than 80 countries, Genzyme is a leader in the effort to develop and apply the most advanced technologies in the life sciences.



The company's products and services are focused on rare inherited disorders, kidney disease, orthopaedics, cancer, transplant and immune diseases, and diagnostic testing. Genzyme's commitment to innovation continues today with a substantial development program focused on these fields, as well as heart disease and other areas of unmet medical need.

Genzyme® and Carticel® are registered trademarks of Genzyme Corporation.

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