



Press release

## ***Global Life Science Ventures invests into Agendia BV***

**Munich/London/Zug**, 30 March 2004 – *Global Life Science Ventures (GLSV)* today announced that it has made an investment into Agendia BV, a pharmacogenomics company founded in 2003 by leading scientists from the Netherlands Cancer Institute (Nederlands Kanker Instituut or NKI). Gilde Investment Management led this series A financing round for the company located in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. AXA Private Equity also participated as part of the investment syndicate.

Agendia has developed the first microarray-based diagnostic test that predicts the risk of breast cancer tumours to develop metastasis by looking at the expression pattern of key genes. In ground-breaking studies, a 70-gene signature was identified and validated that distinguishes aggressive breast cancer tumours from those tumours less likely to spread. This test, Agendia's lead product, assists physicians in determining which patients are prone to develop metastasis and hence benefit from adjuvant chemotherapy. In addition, Agendia develops additional profiles that are predictive of disease progression or treatment outcome. The company also offers high-end profiling and clinical trial stratification services to selected corporate customers.

Dr. Klaus Breiner, Investment Manager at GLSV, commented: "We are convinced that Agendia's first product will enable oncologists that treat women diagnosed with primary breast cancer to make the best-informed treatment decision. The value of this test has already been recognized by several institutions, including a charity, health care providers, pharma companies and governmental agencies, who have committed to support several ongoing clinical trials." He added: "Agendia's strategic alliance with the NKI provides the company additionally with an attractive pipeline of new products. We feel that Agendia is in a good position to put in place a range of high quality diagnostic tests and services for cancer patients, health care providers and corporate customers worldwide."

Bernhard Sixt, Chief Executive Officer of Agendia, remarked: "We are pleased to welcome Global Life Science Ventures as a key investor in our series A financing round. As an experienced international investor with a strong track record in mentoring its portfolio companies, GLSV will provide valuable support to Agendia as we market our lead pharmacogenomic product and develop further gene signatures on microarrays as validated clinical diagnostic tools."

Dr. Hans Küpper, Partner at GLSV, remarked: "In line with our strategy to achieve a balanced portfolio, Agendia represents the first diagnostic company to be financed through our second fund. With three new investments so far in 2004, Global Life Science Ventures continues to build on the substantial progress made throughout last year. Approximately 50% of our second fund has now been allocated and one of our portfolio companies has announced its intention for a public listing on the NASDAQ in the near future. "



**Notes to editors.** A microarray consists of multiple features (spots) of DNA, which in this case are used to determine the levels of mRNA expression in a tumour tissue sample. The DNA for each feature is from a gene of interest and is a probe for the mRNA encoded by that gene. Microarrays can be thought of as a grid of DNA spots, each one with a different DNA sequence. Each spot will hybridize only to its complementary DNA strand. In this way, each spot acts as a probe to determine the levels of a specific mRNA produced by the cells in the sample. Agendia's technology involves state-of-the-art microarrays combined with fluorescence laser scanning detection to measure the activities of genes within a tumour sample. The resulting pattern of gene activity is then interpreted by a computer program which, in the case of the prognostic breast cancer chip, predicts the risk that metastases (cancer spreading) will occur in the patient from which the tumour sample was derived.

#### **About Agendia BV:**

Agendia ([www.agendia.com](http://www.agendia.com)) was formed by researchers from the Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) in Amsterdam who co-authored a set of landmark studies reported in 2002 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Nature*.<sup>\*</sup> These studies concluded that a profile derived from the activity of 70 genes can assist physicians in determining which patients with primary breast cancer are at risk to develop metastasis, thereby guiding chemotherapy to those who may benefit from it while reducing the amount of unnecessary adjuvant chemotherapy. This test is available worldwide through the company's centralized lab service and established logistics. The company has a strategic alliance with Agilent Technologies and the NKI and will continue to develop microarray-based tests that are predictive of disease progression or treatment outcome in various cancer indications. Agendia also offers high-end profiling and clinical trial stratification services to selected corporate customers.

<sup>\*</sup> *New England Journal of Medicine* 2002, vol. 19, 347, 1999-2009.  
*Nature* 2002, vol. 415, 530-536.

#### **About Global Life Science Ventures:**

GLSV is a leading, independent venture capital fund focusing exclusively on the life sciences. With offices in Germany, Switzerland, and the UK, GLSV is dedicated to providing finance primarily to early-stage groups, originating from universities, scientific institutions or industry, as well as selected later stage companies, including buy-outs. The group currently advises and manages funds greater than €200 million. Up to now, GLSV has financed 29 leading biotechnology companies, four of which have completed a successful exit through IPO or trade-sale. GLSV has built a broadly diversified portfolio of companies in pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices, and biotechnology.

#### **Global Life Science Ventures – one team – three locations – global perspective**

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