

/ Wellington strengthens Life Science activities with two new General Partners /

Wellington Partners wins two seasoned Life Science General Partners: Actelion founder Thomas Widmann and Erich Schlick, the former head of research and development at BASF Pharma

Munich, April 4, 2005. Dr. Thomas Widmann and Prof. Dr. Erich Schlick will be augmenting the Wellington Partners Life Science team as further General Partners. Together with the team of founders at Swiss-based Actelion, Thomas Widmann built one of Europe's most successful biotech companies. Today, this highly profitable publicly traded corporation has a market capitalization of € 1.8 billion. Erich Schlick had been in charge of research and development at BASF Pharma for ten years. "Thomas Widmann and Erich Schlick number among the pioneers in the European biotech industry. With their experience and network, they will be making a major contribution to the success of our portfolio companies," notes Wellington Partner Dr. Rainer Strohmenger.

Cardiologist Widmann formed his first company, Triton Technology, in San Diego back in the early 1980s. He then went on to head up global development of new cardiovascular products at Roche for eight years. In 1996, he formed clinical research organization Hesperion. Today, this profitable company, which has been a member of the Cerep Group since 2003, employs 150 people throughout the world. He and two colleagues then founded Actelion in 1997. As its first CEO, he drove the swift market launch of the company's lead product and won Wellington Partners and others as investors. This entrepreneur has already been successfully supporting the Wellington Life Science team for the past two years as a Venture Partner, including serving as the chairman of Wellington Partners portfolio company immatics in Tübingen, Germany. This is the way Widmann explains his decision to be an active venture capitalist in the future: "Europe's biotech industry offers enormous potential for innovative research approaches. Up until now, though, the start-ups have lacked experience in fast clinical development and marketing. This is precisely the kind of experience that Wellington Partners brings to the table. Our objective is to build first-class Life Science companies in Europe that offer strong growth potential in the coming years."

In the second half of 2005, Professor Dr. Erich Schlick will also be augmenting Wellington's Life Science competence as a General Partner. Schlick has served as the director of 3i Germany's healthcare division for more than four years. Prior to that, as a member of top management at BASF Pharma he played a key role in research and development activities in connection with the world's first fully human monoclonal TNF antibody (Humira™). Today, this product is a blockbuster at Abbott with anticipated sales of \$ 1.2 billion for 2005. With a view to Widmann, Schlick and Silicon Valley veteran Eric Archambeau, who Wellington also won as a new General Partner only several weeks ago, Wellington founder Rolf C. Dienst says: "Winning three such internationally experienced Partners so quickly demonstrates Wellington's position in the European VC industry: We are already one of the most successful funds, and we intend to broaden our position in the coming years through new investments and our new Wellington Partners III funds."

About Wellington Partners

Formed in 1991, Wellington Partners (www.wellington.de) invests venture capital in start-ups throughout Europe in the fields of Information and Communication Technology and Life Science and numbers among Europe's most successful early-stage investors. The Munich-based firm today manages a total fund volume of € 350 million. To date, Wellington Partners has invested in over 70 companies and has sold 21 of them at a profit, in four cases in connection with an IPO. Wellington's venture capital investments include Actelion, Wavelight and Medigene.

Further information:

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