

**/ Wellington Partners expands its Venture Partner network –
Clinical expert Dr. Melvin K. Spigelman augments Life Science team prior to
fundraising /**

Munich, August 24, 2005. With Dr. Melvin K. Spigelman (55), Wellington Partners is gaining a seasoned manager in the field of clinical development and regulatory affairs as a new Venture Partner. Dr. Spigelman and the venture capital firm have already worked together on selected projects since December 2003. As a Venture Partner, Dr. Spigelman will advise Wellington Partners' Life Science portfolio companies, support Wellington in selecting new investments and take board seats. From his base in New York, Dr. Spigelman's particular focus will be on providing support to portfolio companies with respect to clinical development and approval in the United States, as well as on forging partnerships with U.S. companies. "The U.S. market stands for 50 percent of the world pharma market. With Mel Spigelman, we now have a seasoned, outstandingly networked Venture Partner in the U.S.," notes Wellington Partner Dr. Rainer Strohmenger.

As a director of the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, a non-profit New York organization, Dr. Spigelman is responsible for research and development in the battle against tuberculosis. He had previously held executive positions at BASF Pharma USA from 1989 to 2001, most recently as Vice President Global Clinical Centers. One of his responsibilities in this function was to design the approval studies for Humira™, the first fully human monoclonal antibody for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, today a blockbuster product. "Like virtually no one else, Mel Spigelman possesses solid expertise in the design and execution of clinical studies. It is precisely in this phase that our portfolio companies can generate the greatest added value, which means that he perfectly complements our own know-how," explains Wellington Partners founder Rolf Christof Dienst. He is convinced that winning Dr. Spigelman represents a further major element in current fundraising activities for Wellington's Life Science fund, with its target volume of € 100 million.

About Wellington Partners

Wellington Partners, formed in 1991, invests 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 company today manages a total fund volume of € 400 million.

To date, Wellington Partners has invested in over 75 companies and has sold 23 of them at a profit, in four cases through an IPO. Serving as the lead or co-lead-investor, the company has already accompanied e.g. Chipbroker ACG or biotech player Actelion in their IPO, and sold e.g. WLAN AG to Swisscom and the German auctioneer Alando to eBay. Further information: www.wellington-partners.com.

Further information

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