

## SWEDEN GRANTS REIMBURSEMENT OF ACOMPLIA™ (RIMONABANT) FOR OVERWEIGHT PATIENTS WITH ASSOCIATED RISK FACTORS

*- This new reimbursement, the third in a month, after Denmark and Ireland, opens access for more European patients suffering from multiple cardiometabolic risk factors -*

**Paris, November 10, 2006** - Sanofi-aventis announced today that Acomplia™ (rimonabant) recently approved in the 25 countries of the European Union was granted reimbursement by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Board (PBB) of Sweden for treatment of obese patients with BMI over 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or overweight patients with BMI over 28 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and type-2 diabetes or dyslipidaemia. Acomplia™ is available for patients in Sweden as of today.

Swedish reimbursement of Acomplia™, the first-in-class medicine that targets multiple cardiometabolic risk factors, is the third reimbursement obtained in Europe in a month and completes the reimbursements obtained in Denmark and Ireland.

### #MORE INFORMATION#

#### **About cardiometabolic risk**

Cardiometabolic risk is formed by a cluster of factors that can lead people to develop cardiovascular disease and/or type-2 diabetes. Main risk factors are abdominal obesity, high triglycerides (bad cholesterol), low HDL cholesterol level (good cholesterol), insulin resistance, elevated glucose and high blood pressure.

#### **About Acomplia™**

Acomplia™ works by selectively blocking CB<sub>1</sub> receptors found in the brain and peripheral organs important in glucose and lipid (or fat) metabolism, including adipose tissue, the liver, gastrointestinal tract and muscle. CB<sub>1</sub> receptor blockade with Acomplia™ acts to decrease the overactivity of the endocannabinoid system (EC system). The EC system is a recently characterised physiological system that includes receptors such as the CB<sub>1</sub> receptor, and it is believed to play an important role in regulating body weight and in controlling energy balance, as well as glucose and lipid metabolism.

Acomplia™ is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise for the treatment of obese patients (BMI ≥ 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>), or overweight patients (BMI >27kg/m<sup>2</sup>) with associated risk factors, such as type 2 diabetes or dyslipidaemia.



The approval of Acomplia™ (rimonabant) a first in class product discovered and developed by sanofi-aventis was based on comprehensive efficacy and safety data, including data from the RIO clinical trial programme which involved more than 6,600 patients worldwide, of which over 4,500 were studied for up to two years.

### **About the RIO programme**

Results from the RIO programme demonstrated that one Acomplia™ (rimonabant) 20 mg tablet taken every day significantly decreased weight and waist circumference, HbA<sub>1c</sub>, and triglycerides and increased HDL-cholesterol levels - the 'good cholesterol'. The RIO-Diabetes Study results recently published in the Lancet, demonstrated that rimonabant (Acomplia™) significantly improved weight, blood sugar levels and other cardiometabolic Risk Factors in People with Type 2 Diabetes.

### **About sanofi-aventis**

Sanofi-aventis is the world's third largest pharmaceutical company, ranking number one in Europe. Backed by a world-class R&D organization, sanofi-aventis is developing leading positions in seven major therapeutic areas: cardiovascular, thrombosis, oncology, metabolic diseases, central nervous system, internal medicine, and vaccines. Sanofi-aventis is listed in Paris (EURONEXT: SAN) and in New York (NYSE: SNY).

### **Forward Looking Statements**

*This press release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. These statements include financial projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives and expectations with respect to future events, operations, products and services, and statements regarding future performance. Forward-looking statements are generally identified by the words "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "intends," "estimates," "plans" and similar expressions. Although sanofi-aventis' management believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, investors are cautioned that forward-looking information and statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of sanofi-aventis, that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. These risks and uncertainties include those discussed or identified in the public filings with the SEC and the AMF made by sanofi-aventis, including those listed under "Risk Factors" and "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in sanofi-aventis' annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2005. Other than as required by applicable law, sanofi-aventis does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information or statements.*