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## For Immediate Release

### NiKem Research and GSK Enter into a Research Partnership Agreement

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**Milan — January 8th, 2004—** (Baranzate di Bollate) Today NiKem Research announced that it has signed a research and development agreement with GSK for the discovery of Opioid Receptor Like-1 (ORL-1) modulators. Under the terms of the agreement, GSK will licence their ORL-1 technology to NiKem. NiKem will perform the chemical identification, optimization and preclinical pharmacological profiling of novel ORL-1 receptor agonists and antagonists in a broad range of potential CNS-related therapeutic indications.

GSK has the option to continue the development and commercialization of any ensuing development candidates, in which case NiKem receives milestones and royalty payments, or to allow NiKem to continue the development and commercialization, in which case GSK becomes entitled to royalty payments.

Carlo Farina, CEO of NiKem, said: "We are delighted that GSK chose NiKem to exploit this opportunity. I look forward to more agreements of this type, as they allow our partners to diversify their drug discovery risks while allowing NiKem to share in the rewards of drug discovery."

The financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

**About NiKem Research.** Based on decades of pharmaceutical chemistry research experience and now operating at small company speed, NiKem Research offers a full range of medicinal and combinatorial chemistry services and partnering opportunities to the pharmaceutical industry. NiKem's mission is to help their partners and clients advance their pipelines by taking discovery biology output and translating it into quality development candidates.

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