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## For Immediate Release

## NiKem Research and Chiesi Farmaceutici enter into a new Research Collaboration

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**Milan — February 18th, 2004**— Chiesi Farmaceutici and NiKem Research have announced details of a collaboration for a discovery program in the respiratory area. This agreement follows another research agreement that resulted in the identification of a new optimized lead currently under development for the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The new discovery program represents a particular challenge to NiKem's scientists due to the avant-garde approach that will be necessary to accomplish the objectives of the project.

Carlo Farina, CEO of NiKem Research said "It is certainly stimulating to work again with Chiesi after the positive outcome of our previous discovery program for potentially disease-modifying anti-Alzheimer agents. NiKem looks forward to once again delivering positive results to Chiesi within this challenging discovery project. I thank Chiesi for believing in NiKem as a key discovery partner and we look forward to decades of success together."

Bruno Imbimbo, Director of Primary Research for Chiesi Farmaceutici said "NiKem has done very impressive work for us and has proven itself to be a key player in the drug discovery arena. Knowing the ability of NiKem to deliver high quality results prompts us to chose them again for a challenging research program in a difficult area like that of respiratory diseases."

The details of the research program and the financial 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 partners and clients advance their pipelines by taking discovery biology output and translating it into quality development candidates. For more information please visit [www.nikemresearch.com](http://www.nikemresearch.com).

**About Chiesi Farmaceutici.** Chiesi Farmaceutici is one of the most dynamic Italian-owned pharmaceutical companies in Europe with a turnover of € 476 mil in 2003. Chiesi has marketing and sales organizations in all the major European markets, and product distribution in over 40 countries. The company employs 2600 people world wide, including approximately 300 scientists in research facilities in Italy, France and the US.

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