



Media Contacts:

Pamela Mariani
Tel. +39 02 35694 7428
Fax: +39 02 35694 7606
pamela.mariani@nikemresearch.com

For Immediate Release

NiKem Research Acquires a Patent Portfolio of V-ATPase Inhibitors from GSK

Baranzate di Bollate— February 19th, 2003— Today NiKem Research announces the acquisition of a patent portfolio from GlaxoSmithKline. This portfolio includes three new chemical classes of small molecule inhibitors of the vacuolar proton ATPase that were discovered by scientists currently employed by NiKem Research. The portfolio contains claims directed to a number of therapeutic indications, including cancer. This is of particular interest to NiKem Research since there is growing evidence that the V-ATPase plays an important role in cancer by contributing to Multi-Drug Resistance (MDR), inhibiting apoptosis and causing abnormal cellular proliferation.

Carlo Farina, CEO of NiKem Research, says "It was a pleasure completing this deal with GSK Ventures. The acquisition of this patent portfolio is a large step forward for our company. Over the last eight years our researchers have acquired significant experience in the design of V-ATPase inhibitors, and we are eager and confident to devote this experience toward developing more effective cancer medicines."

NiKem intends to enlist a pharmaceutical partner to continue the development in cancer and all other implicated fields.

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 our partners and clients advance their pipelines by taking discovery biology output and translating it into quality lead candidates ready for development.

###