

# Press Release

K.U. Leuven Research & Development  
Cambridge Biomedical Campus  
BioRN Network

June 8, 2011

## Constitution of Health Axis Europe signed

**Health technology clusters in Cambridge (UK), Leuven (Belgium) and Heidelberg (Germany) agreed on the formation of the Health Axis Europe alliance to foster health innovation across Europe**

Leuven (Belgium) | Representatives of the three biomedical clusters in Cambridge (UK), Leuven (Belgium) and Heidelberg (Germany) today convened in Leuven to form a strategic alliance called “Health Axis Europe” in order to cross-leverage their innovation resources and thus jointly increase their international competitiveness.

The alliance will be governed and driven by the Health Axis Europe Committee comprising key individuals of each cluster representing the local industry, science, politics and venture capital. The parties forming the alliance are K.U. Leuven Research & Development (LRD), the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and the Heidelberg-based BioRN Network. The partners will promote collaboration in the areas of regenerative medicine, stem cell research, medical devices and personalised medicine with focus on research, development and education as well as in procuring financial funds with particular consideration of the support schemes of the European Union.

Martin Hinoul, Business Development Manager at Leuven R&D, stated: “If knowledge is the driving force behind prosperity and well-being in this millennium then the unique European health technology cluster alliance between Heidelberg, Leuven and Cambridge can certainly leverage this.”

Alan Barrell, Entrepreneur in Residence and representative of Cambridge Worldwide Associates, said: “Within Europe, the combined academic, clinical and commercial strength in healthcare and especially advanced areas of medical research and innovation which resides in these three centres is exceptional. Cross border, cross cultural and cross functional activities will lead to more discovery and greater success in the commercialisation of research.”

The Managing Director of the BioRN Network in Heidelberg, Christian Tidona, added: “This alliance is an important step towards critical mass in Europe in the field of biomedical research. It will allow us to competitively address the big health issues of an ageing population”.

The Committee and the Executive Board of the Health Axis Europe will assemble within the next three months and initiate the first joint research and development projects.

### **About K.U. Leuven Research & Development**

*K.U. Leuven Research & Development (LRD) is the knowledge and technology transfer office (TTO) of the K.U. Leuven Association. LRD supports researchers in their interaction with industry and in the valorisation of their research results. Centrally located in Flanders and Europe, the Leuven region, with its renowned knowledge institutes, its incubators and science parks, and the presence of venture capitalists, provides a fertile breeding-ground for spin-off companies and international R&D intensive companies. In particular, LRD is an active partner in setting up a number of networking initiatives and technology clusters, as well as in planning, setting up and exploiting incubators, science parks and business centres in the Leuven region.*

### **About Cambridge Biomedical Campus**

*The Cambridge Biomedical Campus is an international centre of excellence in biomedical research, patient care and education. Current occupiers include the University of Cambridge, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB), the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute (CRI) and the Hutchison/MRC Research Centre. Papworth Hospital has also announced its intention to relocate to the Campus. The site is currently undergoing a major expansion and is actively recruiting commercial biomedical companies to locate alongside the existing occupiers on the Campus.*

### **About BioRN Network (BioRegion Rhein-Neckar-Dreieck e.V.)**

*The BioRN Network in Heidelberg represents the Biotech Cluster Rhine-Neckar (BioRN). It unites renowned research institutions such as the University of Heidelberg, the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and large global companies such as Roche Diagnostics, BASF, Merck and Abbott. Together with more than 80 biotech companies, numerous suppliers and service providers as well as local authorities and chambers the BioRN Network aims to develop the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region into one of the leading innovation hubs for life sciences in Europe. More information about the partners of the BioRN Network can be found in the BioRN Guide at [www.biorn.org/guide/](http://www.biorn.org/guide/).*

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