



**PRESS RELEASE**

***For Immediate Dissemination***

**ProRetina Therapeutics, GP Pharm and BCN Peptides form a consortium for the development of innovative therapies in the eye field**

*Barcelona, May, 2011* – ProRetina, spin-off of Biological Investigation Center (CSIC), GP Pharm Biopharmaceutical and BCN Peptides, fine chemicals division of Lipotec Group, have agreed to form a consortium to deal with the development of formulations that allow drugs to vehicular to the retina. The union aims to improve quality of patient's life through the treatment of eye diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa and other retinal dystrophies.

Retinitis pigmentosa is the name given to a group of hereditary progressive degeneration affecting the photoreceptor cells and retinal pigment epithelium. This is a serious problem since the early degeneration of the retina leading to progressive loss of vision, ends up with blindness once adult.

Currently there is no treatment, so ProRetina has obtained orphan drug designation from the European Medicines Agency and the Food and Drug Administration U.S. to develop a specific drug to treat this disease and improving to the extent possible, the quality of patient's life.

Thus, the consortium of GP Pharm, ProRetina Therapeutics and BCN Peptides is necessary because of the complementary nature of the functions carried out by each one of them. ProRetina Therapeutics is responsible for providing the active ingredient, a neuroprotective factor, for which encouraging results were obtained after animal testing.

For its part, the GP Pharm expertise in the development and manufacture of slow release formulations is essential to the success of therapy because the active ingredient must reach the retina in a sustained manner over time. Furthermore, BCN Peptides develops drugs for the treatment of eye diseases and provides technology for conveying to the retina.

As a result, the purpose of the consortium is to make joint efforts to facilitate the good running of a therapy directed at a group that urgently needs to see improved their daily lives.

In terms of funding, the consortium has received a loan from the CDTI (Centre for Industrial Technical Development) through the National Inter-project cooperation. In particular, this specific type of R&D&I require, as a main requirement, scientific and technical excellence for technology development, innovative products or processes.

The three companies have also reach to an agreement for the manufacture and treatment operation in certain markets.