



## **Arcarios B.V. announces closing of financing round**

**Rotterdam (The Netherlands) – August 25, 2010 - Dutch biotech company Arcarios B.V. announces successful completion of a seed-financing round. Arcarios focuses on the discovery and development of innovative, disease modifying products that target bone and joint diseases. An international consortium of investors has funded Arcarios, the financing round was led by BioGeneration Ventures.**

Arcarios was established through a merger of Therosteon B.V. and a spin-off from Tigenix NV (Euronext: TIG), in close collaboration with its academic partners Ghent University (UGent, Laboratory of Rheumatology) and Catholic University of Leuven (K.U.Leuven, Laboratory of Rheumatology and CD3, the Centre for Drug Design & Discovery).

Arcarios will focus on the development of novel disease-modifying therapeutics in the field of bone and joint diseases. Its products are aimed at actively restoring bone or joint defects and address a clear unmet medical need. The Company has two early pre-clinical programs. The first product is a small molecule that will be developed for the treatment of osteoarthritis. The Company's second program is a therapeutic protein, which will be developed to treat certain bone diseases.

In addition Arcarios has two high-content screening platforms: ChondroBOOST and OsteoBLAST that focus on the discovery of new targets in the field of joint and bone diseases respectively. These proprietary platforms already yielded a large number of potential new targets. Several drug discovery programs are currently ongoing to further validate these targets. Arcarios is headquartered in Rotterdam, The Netherlands and has research facilities in Rotterdam and Diepenbeek (Belgium).

BioGeneration Ventures (Naarden, The Netherlands) was the lead investor of this seed-financing round; other investors in this round were Tigenix, NV, Erasmus MC Biomedical Fund, Gemma Frisius Fund K.U.Leuven, Baekeland Fund, VINNOF, CD3 Leuven and Credit Agricole Private Equity.

**For more information, please contact:**

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### **About BioGeneration Ventures**

*BioGeneration Ventures invests in seed and early stage Dutch Life Sciences companies. The team of BioGeneration is specialized in creating value from novel and innovative technologies and the management of start-up companies. BioGeneration Ventures was co-founded by the Netherlands Genomics Initiative (NGI), NWO, the holding of the University of Leiden, and ABN-AMRO. BioGeneration Ventures closely cooperates with Forbion Capital Partners.*

*[www.biogenerationventures.com](http://www.biogenerationventures.com)*

### **About Baekeland**

*The Baekeland Funds are the investment funds of Ghent University and its partners in the Ghent University Association. In collaboration with a number of financial partners, these funds were established for the purpose of investing in growing, innovative companies that are commercializing technology developed either within or in collaboration with the Ghent University Association. Baekeland Fund II has created a distinct profile for itself as a "seed capital" and "early stage" fund that makes its investments when the spin-offs are being established. If opportune, Baekeland Fund II, preferably together with new investors, will also invest in the following round of financing. Thus Baekeland Fund II hopes to realize large-scale projects that will be eligible for further financing by Flemish and international risk capital providers.*

*[www.baekelandfonds.be](http://www.baekelandfonds.be)*

### **About Crédit Agricole Private Equity**

*Crédit Agricole Private Equity is an AMF-accredited asset-management subsidiary of Crédit Agricole, specialising in direct private-equity investment in non-listed companies. As multi-specialist player, Crédit Agricole Private Equity's team of 95 professionals manages €3 billion with specific expertise in LBO & Expansion, Venture Capital, Mezzanine, Co-Investment, Renewable Energy and PPP Infrastructure. The 12-strong venture capital team manages €470 million through FCPIs invested in young companies with high growth potential in 2 sectors:*

information technology and life sciences. *Crédit Agricole Private Equity* has signed up to the *United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)*. As committed shareholder, *Crédit Agricole Private Equity* provides the best possible support for businesses and delivers sustainable performance to its investors.

[www.ca-privateequity.com](http://www.ca-privateequity.com)

#### **About the Erasmus MC Biomedical Fund**

*The Erasmus MC Biomedical Fund is an independent venture capital fund focusing on early stage companies and (university) spin-outs in the biotechnology and biomedical field with a presence in the Rotterdam region. The fund targets companies that are developing commercially promising products and technologies in life sciences, including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, information technology and other high technology opportunities that offer venture capital returns. More information about the fund is available on [www.erasmusmcfund.nl](http://www.erasmusmcfund.nl).*

#### **About Gemma Frisius Fund**

*The Gemma Frisius Fund K.U.Leuven (GFF) is a seed capital fund, established in 1997 as a joint venture between K.U.Leuven, the KBC Group and the BNP Paribas Group. Its objective is to stimulate the creation and growth of K.U.Leuven association related spin-off companies, by providing seed & growth capital in very early phases of research-based spin-off companies. Since 1997, GFF has invested in 36 K.U.Leuven spin-off companies. More information about the fund is available on <http://lrd.kuleuven.be/en/spinoff/gff-information>.*

#### **About the Centre for Drug Design and Discovery (CD3)**

*The Centre for Drug Design and Discovery (CD3) is a multidisciplinary centre and investment fund created by K.U.Leuven R&D as a technology transfer platform in the field of drug discovery and target validation. CD3 focuses on the discovery of new and innovative small molecule drugs in collaboration with academic research groups or small (spin-off) companies and this by delivering financial means in combination with expert drug discovery support. The centre has been established by the K.U.Leuven in a partnership with the European Investment Fund (EIF).*

#### **About Tigenix**

*Based in Leuven, Belgium, TiGenix NV (NYSE Euronext Brussels: TIG) is a public biomedical company that focuses on 'Regenerating Motion'. The company is exploiting the power of Regenerative Medicine to develop durable treatments,*

*validated through controlled clinical trials, for damaged and diseased skeletal tissues. TiGenix now has two products approved for marketing and sales in Europe:*

*ChondroCelect<sup>®</sup>, the company's lead product for cartilage regeneration in the knee, is the first cell-based product that successfully completed the entire development track from research, over clinical development to central European registration as a medicinal product. ChondroCelect consists of characterised cultured chondrocytes derived from the patient's own cartilage and is used for autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI), a surgical procedure to treat cartilage defects. ChondroCelect received European Marketing Authorisation as the first Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product.*

*ChondroMimetic<sup>™</sup> is an off-the-shelf, collagen based implant for the treatment of small osteochondral (cartilage and underlying bone) defects. It will be marketed as a procedure pack including with the collagen implant preloaded in an accurate, easy to use delivery device. The application is relatively simple and requires less training for surgeons than ChondroCelect.*

*The company exploits a proprietary cell based and biomaterials platform, which will continue to generate candidate products that address specific musculoskeletal problems.*

*With a fully operational sales team in place, TiGenix is ready for commercial expansion and reinforcement of its leading position in Europe in the regenerative medicine field.*

*[www.tigenix.com](http://www.tigenix.com).*

### **About VINNOF**

*Vinnof (Vlaams Innovatiefonds - Flemish Innovation Fund) provides seed capital for young, innovative companies and start-ups based in Flanders. Vinnof is a 100% subsidiary of Participatie Maatschappij Vlaanderen NV, the investment company for Flanders. More information about VINNOF is available on [www.vinnof.be](http://www.vinnof.be).*

### **About Therosteon**

*Therosteon was founded in 2008, as a spin-out of the Erasmus University Medical Center by Professor Hans van Leeuwen, Marco Eijken and Tolleiv Trimbom. The company was co-founded by the Erasmus Biomedical Fund and supported by NGI through a pre-seed grant.*