

## Media Release

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16 October 2008

### **Actelion awards grants to young investigators for innovative clinical endothelin research**

**ALLSCHWIL/BASEL, SWITZERLAND – 16 October 2008** – Actelion Ltd has announced three winners of the Actelion Endothelin Research Awards (AERA) program which supports young clinical scientists involved in endothelin research related to heart, lung and vascular diseases. The clinical research grants have been awarded to clinicians in Austria, Germany and Sweden.

A total of 29 applications were received from 12 countries, from which the AERA Steering Committee, an independent board of renowned experts in endothelin research, awarded three grants. The winning applications were selected based on scientific excellence, originality, feasibility and relevance to the purpose of the program.

The award winners and supported projects are:

- **Dr Judith Maria Löffler-Ragg**, Innsbruck Medical University, Austria  
*“Drug target analysis and interactions of the endothelin system in adult pulmonary Langerhans’ cell histiocytosis”*
- **Dr Gabriela Riemekasten**, Charité University Hospital, Berlin, Germany  
*“Evaluation of differential ET<sub>A</sub> and ET<sub>B</sub> expression on phenotype and function of peripheral blood mononuclear cells”*
- **Dr Magnus Settergren**, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden  
*“The importance of endothelin-1 for myocardial microvascular dysfunction in patients with type 2 diabetes”*

Professor Christian Kähler, Director of the Pneumology Centre at Innsbruck Medical University, one of the members of the Steering Committee, commented: “The Steering Committee was delighted with the increasing quality of submitted projects this year and the innovation and scientific excellence that these projects exhibited. Thus, only selecting three projects for the AERA awards proved a significant challenge for the committee. The

outcomes of these innovative projects will allow us to further understand the role of endothelin and increase our knowledge of how to effectively approach related conditions.”

The AERA program was established in 2006 as a mentored and grant-based program targeting young investigators at universities and research institutes with an interest in clinical endothelin research. From six projects which were awarded in 2006, four have been completed successfully and shared with the scientific community through a number of publications and presentations. Results of projects awarded in 2007 will be available in 2009.

The third competition cycle was launched in January 2008. Letters of intent were accepted via the AERA website until the closing date of 30 April 2008. Based on the thorough assessment by the AERA Steering Committee, applicants were invited to submit a full proposal from which the three award winners were selected. For further information about AERA please visit: [www.endothelin.org](http://www.endothelin.org).

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#### Notes to editors:

##### Actelion Ltd

Actelion Ltd is a biopharmaceutical company with its corporate headquarters in Allschwil/Basel, Switzerland. Actelion's first drug Tracleer®, an orally available dual endothelin receptor antagonist, has been approved as a therapy for pulmonary arterial hypertension. Actelion markets Tracleer® through its own subsidiaries in key markets worldwide, including the United States (based in South San Francisco), the European Union, Japan, Canada, Australia and Switzerland. Actelion, founded in late 1997, is a leading player in innovative science related to the endothelium - the single layer of cells separating every blood vessel from the blood stream. Actelion's over 1800 employees focus on the discovery, development and marketing of innovative drugs for significant unmet medical needs. Actelion shares are traded on the SWX Swiss Exchange (ticker symbol: ATLN) as part of the Swiss blue-chip index SMI (Swiss Market Index SMI®).

#### For further information please contact:

**Actelion Ltd, Gewerbstrasse 16, CH-4123 Allschwil**

Actelion contact	Marc Urich, Senior Clinical Scientist	+41 61 565 5283 <a href="mailto:marc.urich@actelion.com">marc.urich@actelion.com</a>
Media contacts	Kris Matta-Noaman Packer Forbes Communications	+ 44 208 772 1551 <a href="mailto:tracleer-pr@packerforbes.com">tracleer-pr@packerforbes.com</a>

<http://www.actelion.com>