

## Media Release

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13 October 2009

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

**ALLSCHWIL/BASEL, SWITZERLAND – 13 October 2009** – 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 Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

A total of 29 applications were received from 14 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. Ilka Herrgott**, University Hospital Münster, Germany  
*“Small fiber neuropathy and neurogenic inflammation: Possible risk factors for digital ulcers in SSc; and targets for endothelin antagonists?”*
- **Dr. Thomas Hügle**, Newcastle University, United Kingdom  
*“Endothelin-1 receptor expression on monocyte subsets and fibrocytes in systemic sclerosis and the role of Endothelin-1 receptor in triggering monocyte differentiation”*
- **Dr. Dick Thijssen**, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, The Netherlands  
*“Diabetes and vascular complications: the role of endothelin and physical inactivity”*

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. Until now, 15 projects have been awarded. Seven of them have already been completed successfully and shared with the scientific community through a number of publications and presentations. 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 2180 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®).

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