

**Elixir Pharmaceuticals Announces Issuance of Patent
for "Methods of Identifying Lifespan Altering Agents" and
Presentation of Data on Discovery of SIRT1 Inhibitors**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.--Sept. 13, 2004--Elixir Pharmaceuticals, Inc.announced today the issuance of a US Patent entitled "Identifying Lifespan-altering Agents." Through an agreement with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Elixir Pharmaceuticals is the exclusive worldwide licensee of patent number 6,787,300, which describes methods for identifying agents that extend life span and protect against stress in eukaryotic cells.

In a related development, Elixir scientists will make a presentation today entitled: Discovery of Potent, Selective Orally Bioavailable Inhibitors of the Human Deacetylase SirT1 at the Society for Biomolecular Screening Meeting in Orlando, Florida. SirT1, a member of the human sirtuin family of histone deacetylase (HDAC) enzymes, is believed to be involved in the regulation of lifespan.Modulators of this enzyme class may represent important therapeutic agents for metabolic diseases such as diabetes and obesity as well as cancer and infectious diseases.

"Understanding the biology of aging is a key part of our company's efforts to discover and develop novel therapeutics for treating metabolic diseases. Our focus on diseases such as diabetes and obesity is based upon the strong relationship between metabolism and aging. The `300 patent further strengthens Elixir's intellectual property portfolio around the discovery and development of novel therapies related to aging and age-related diseases," commented William K.Heiden, CEO and President of Elixir. "Our data on SirT1 inhibitors presented today in Orlando represent the next step in progressing our anti-aging platform to the discovery of novel compounds for the treatment of a range of metabolic disorders."

Elixir Pharmaceuticals is focused on discovering and developing new drugs for metabolic disorders based on a unique understanding of the genetics of aging and its fundamental relationship to the onset of major diseases. Elixir scientists have identified many important genes that regulate aging and the proteins encoded by those genes are the targets of the company's drug discovery efforts. More information about Elixir is available at www.elixirpharm.com.

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