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ANNOUNCEMENT

Pharmascience Announces Grant Program for Research into Health Benefits of Grape Derivative

Montreal, May 4, 1998 – A Canadian pharmaceutical company has announced the creation of a research grant program designed to identify and quantify the health benefits of *trans*-resveratrol, a potent antioxidant found in grapes and wine. Montreal-based Pharmascience Inc. unveiled the grant program at a California scientific conference. Grants of between (U.S.) \$10,000 and \$50,000 are available, and are intended to encourage research into the benefits of *trans*-resveratrol in preventing cancer and heart attacks and reducing cholesterol.

Scientists believe that *trans*-resveratrol, a natural substance found in highest concentration in red wine, but also found in white wine and grapes, may be the compound responsible for the so-called “French Paradox”. This refers to comparative statistics that in the early 1990s began to show that residents of certain regions of France, in spite of high-fat, high-cholesterol diets, a higher incidence of smoking, and little exercise, have lower rates of death from heart disease than North Americans. It has been postulated that the well-known French affinity for and robust consumption of wine is responsible for the difference.

Further interest in this compound was generated by data from the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey follow-up, conducted between 1982 to 1984. This survey found that Americans who drank up to two glasses of wine per day lived three per cent longer than non-drinkers.

“We have seen some quite compelling evidence that *trans*-resveratrol may be one of the most promising and most broadly-active agents yet discovered in the fight against human diseases,” said Dr. John Pezzuto, Director of Program of Collaborative Research at the University of Illinois. “Among its other properties, *trans*-resveratrol appears to act as an antioxidant. We know that antioxidants combat harmful oxidising elements in the body known as ‘free radicals’, and antioxidant compounds are becoming a key area of study in cancer, neurology and cardiovascular medicine. I am encouraged to see a respected pharmaceutical manufacturer invest in a program to help researchers ascertain how *trans*-resveratrol works, how effective it is, and what its ultimate medical uses may be.” Dr. Pezzuto will chair the committee that will review and approve the grant proposals.

Pharmascience Inc., a leading Canadian manufacturer of brand-name, generic and over-the-counter medicines, has found a way to synthesise an extremely pure version of *trans*-resveratrol that is identical to that found in grapes. “Initially, our Resverin® form of *trans*-resveratrol will be most valuable to medical researchers at universities, hospitals and public institutions,” said Dr. David Goodman, Vice President of Business Development at Pharmascience. “Accordingly, we’ve provided samples of our purified product to organisations such as the U.S. National Cancer Institute, where they are studying *trans*-resveratrol’s efficacy in preventing certain cancers. We hope that the research we are sponsoring will provide further evidence of the benefits of *trans*-resveratrol in preventing and treating disease and promoting health.”

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