

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

INVESTORS IN GREAT IDEAS

## Home

**The BioScience Ventures Group** (BSVG) is an association of experienced business angels focused exclusively on investments in early-stage life-science companies. Investment size varies from 0.2 to 0.5 Mio. Euro per investment round.

**BSVG** consists furthermore of an experienced team with medical and pharmacological background specialized in drug development, the design of preclinical and clinical studies especially in the field of Biologics as for example antibodies or proteins.

Therefore BSVG succeeds in increasing the efficiency of its investments and to reduce development costs. In addition the team has broad and long experience within the investment business.

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## Investment strategy

**The BioScience Ventures Group** focuses on investing in early stage life science companies that due to their outstanding technology can satisfy unmet medical needs in the fields of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical technology (medical devices).

The Management team should be as competitive as their technology. Our initial investment averages EUR 250.000 to EUR 500.000 and we try to help our companies to accelerate the preclinical and clinical trials as well as to reduce costs of development by intensive consultancy.

Additionally we help our companies in business concerns e.g. fundraising. We seek companies to address unmet medical needs in not only large markets. We always want to be actively involved by taking a seat in the company board.

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## Investment team

### **Prof. Dr. Volkmar Nüssler**

Volkmar is currently Associate Professor in Hematology and Oncology at the Tumor Center, Munich. He has experience in early drug development with biological agents eg in anticancer vaccines, antisense therapy, antibody therapy, anti-angiogenesis therapy, signal transduction inhibitors and gene therapy. Volkmar is coordinator of the Tumor Center, Munich. Among his roles in this function, he has initiated a cancer patient forum in collaboration with the Bavarian Cancer Society. Over the last eight years he has established and organized the international congress "Biological Therapy in Cancer" in Munich. Additionally, he is a reviewer for more than 5 international scientific journals.



### **Prof. Dr. Markus Heiss**

Markus M. Heiss is a specialized surgeon with a main focus on visceral and vascular surgery; until April 2004 he held the position of leading senior physician at the Surgical University Hospital in Munich-Großhadern and since May 2004 he has been Medical Director of the Department of Visceral, Vascular and Transplant Surgery at the Medical Center Cologne-Merheim, which is part of the City of Cologne Municipal Hospitals. Moreover, he holds a faculty chair for Surgery at the University of Witten/Herdecke. His areas of specialisation are surgical oncology with special interest in tumor immunology, as well as MIC (minimally invasive surgery) and transplant surgery.



### **Dr. Nicole Wistuba**

Nicole is Managing Director of BSVG. She joined BSVG in 2001 after finishing her PhD studies in biology at the University of Würzburg. She is in charge of the operational business of the company. In addition Nicole serves on the following boards: ugichem GmbH, AdriaCell SRL, MagnaMedics GmbH and MaRVis GmbH.



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GROUP

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**Board of Directors**

**Mrs. Martine Dornier-Tiefenthaler**, attorney, entrepreneur

**Dr. Kurt Scharz (chairman)**, physician, entrepreneur

**Dr. Christian Franckenstein**, entrepreneur

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## Portfolio



**ugichem** is focused on the development of novel gene silencing drugs that have the unique properties of good cell membrane penetration and efficacy even in mitochondria.

[www.ugichem.com](http://www.ugichem.com)



**MaRVis Technologies GmbH** develops a platform technology for magnetic resonance compatible and visible medical devices devoid of metal cores as being used in currently marketed guidewires, catheters, etc. for X-ray guided interventional procedures. These devices will be used in MR-guided interventional procedures and thus eliminate X-ray and contrast agent related risks from patients and physicians.

[www.marvistech.com](http://www.marvistech.com)



**Adriacell SRL** is developing a new generation of biopharmaceuticals for the therapy of cancer patients, the CROMOC compound class., which are fusion proteins of potent active principles combined with broad range molecular targeting strategies. CROMOC compounds are designed to extend cancer treatment options beyond current antibody therapies.

[www.adriacell.com](http://www.adriacell.com)



**MagnaMedics GmbH** engineers and produces magnetic nano- and microparticles that are used in diagnostics for determination of biomarkers in body fluids. MagnaMedics also develops drug delivery tools and enables medical devices for imaging in MRI using its MagnaFy technology.

[www.magnamedics.com](http://www.magnamedics.com)



**APEPTICO** identifies and develops synthetic peptides for the therapy of chronic and life-threatening diseases. APEPTICO's peptide drug molecules are based on comparable structural elements of human proteins and biopharmaceuticals. APEPTICO's drug molecule AP301 undergoes preclinical development for the treatment of pulmonary oedema in acute lung injury.

[www.apeptico.com](http://www.apeptico.com)

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## News

Press release, June 10, 2008



### **Seed-Fonds Aachen and The BioScience Ventures Group invest in MarVis Technologies GmbH Seed capital for the development of MRI compatible and visible medical devices**

**Aachen, Juni 10, 2008** – The „Seed-Fonds for the Region Aachen GmbH & Co. KG“ (Seed-Fonds Aachen, Germany) with MarVis Technologies GmbH has closed its second investment. In total Euro 750,000 are being invested in the young medical device company having its registered seat in Aachen. This money is provided in equal parts by the Seed-Fonds and the co-investor The BioScience Ventures Group AG (Munich, Germany). The company was founded in January 2008 by Dr. Klaus Düring and Mr. Jochim Pfeffer.

#### **Safety and quality by MRI compatible devices**

MarVis is developing a technology platform for medical devices such as guidewires and catheters which are visible in and compatible with the magnetic field in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The material of the instruments is novel, allowing easy visualization during interventional treatments guided by MRI instead of by X-ray as usually done today. Current guidewires and catheters contain long metallic cores or braids and thereby function as electric conductors in the magnetic field. Thus, they are dangerous for patients and doctors and therefore cannot be used in MRI. Dr. Klaus Düring, CEO of MarVis, explains: „With our platform technology for development and production of the devices for the first time we can maintain the positive material characteristics of the current metallic devices. At the same time we ensure high patient safety due to electrically non-conductive material. We embed small isolated metal particles in the non-metallic material so that the devices can be made visible in MRI in a very directed manner.“

#### **Future market in medical engineering**

As a result MRI, being a well established method for diagnostic applications, will experience a breakthrough also for interventional applications due to its superior imaging quality for soft tissues (e.g. blood vessels, organs, brain). „In the future doctors will switch to MRI for a large part of the treatments“ expects Harald Heidemann, Managing Director of the management company of the Seed-Fonds Aachen. „MarVis creates a key prerequisite for application of MRI-guided interventions. These are a viable alternative to X-ray guided treatments, avoid risks inherent to X-ray and provide a higher quality of images.“

#### **Contact:**

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# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## **About Seed-Fonds Aachen**

The „Seed-Fonds für die Region Aachen GmbH & Co. KG“ is one of six regional seed funds, which are realized by NRW.BANK and regional investment partners in North Rhine-Westphalia. The “Seed-Fonds Aachen” provides necessary capital to start-ups of the technology industry. The fund can invest 500.000 Euro maximum per company and round financing - with co-investors up to 1 Mio. Euro. Responsible for the operational leadership of the fund (FM Fonds-Management für die Region Aachen Beteiligungs-GmbH) are the investment experts of S-UBG AG. Since 20 years, the investment company of the savings banks of the region Aachen, Krefeld and Mönchengladbach invests in small- and medium-sized companies and start-ups of the technology sector.

[www.seedfonds-aachen.de](http://www.seedfonds-aachen.de); [www.s-ubg.de](http://www.s-ubg.de)

## **About The BioScience Ventures Group**

The BioScience Ventures Group (BSVG) invests in early stage biotechnology companies. Investment size is between € 0,2 and € 0,5 Mio per round. BSVG assists their portfolio companies in planning and supervising preclinical and clinical studies, especially in the field of biological drugs. Therefore BSVG succeeds in increasing the efficiency of its investments and to reduce development costs. In addition the team has broad and long experience within the investment business.

[www.bsvg.com](http://www.bsvg.com)

## **About MaRVis Technologies GmbH**

MaRVis Technologies GmbH is a medical device company having its registered seat in Aachen. Founded in 2008 it is developing a platform technology which allows visualization of medical devices in procedures based on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). This enables doctors to use new methods with high patient safety for diagnosis and treatment of e.g. cardiovascular, organ or neurological diseases.

[www.marvistech.com](http://www.marvistech.com)

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## News

Press release, October 27, 2008



### **S-UBG investiert gemeinsam mit weiteren Investoren Venture Capital in MagnaMedics GmbH**

#### ***Starke Wachstumsaussichten für den Nanomedizin-Spezialisten***

**Aachen, 27. Oktober 2008** – Die Aachener Beteiligungsgesellschaft S-UBG erwirbt mit ihrem Risikokapitalfonds S-VC GmbH rd. 17 Prozent der Anteile der MagnaMedics GmbH aus Aachen/Maastricht (NL). MagnaMedics ist ein Spezialanbieter von nanotechnologischen Lösungen für die gesamte Medizin- und Life Science-Branche. Als Co-Investoren beteiligen sich The BioScience Ventures Group AG (München) sowie die Limburg Ventures B.V. (Maastricht, Niederlande), so dass MagnaMedics insgesamt ein signifikanter Betrag zufließt. Nach abgeschlossener Start-up-Phase will das Unternehmen nun in die Wachstumsphase eintreten, den Vertrieb aufbauen und seine bereits marktreifen Produkte für neue Anwendungsbereiche weiter entwickeln.

#### **Patentierte Technologie für breites Anwendungsspektrum**

MagnaMedics, gegründet 2003, entwickelt und produziert magnetische Nano- und Mikropartikel, die in der Diagnostik eingesetzt werden. Kunden sind Life Science-, Pharma- und Biotechnologieunternehmen sowie Labore und Forschungseinrichtungen aus diesen Bereichen. Auf Basis seiner neuartigen patentierten Technologie von Magnetpartikeln kann das Unternehmen höchst kundenspezifische Diagnostik-Werkzeuge und Smart Coatings anbieten. „Unsere hohe Flexibilität ist einzigartig im Markt“, sagen Mario Wuttke und Prof. Paul Borm, geschäftsführende Gesellschafter der MagnaMedics. „Gerade in diesen individuellen Tools für spezielle Einsatzbereiche liegt die Zukunft der Diagnostik.“ Darüber hinaus ermöglicht die Technologie von MagnaMedics eine schnellere und kostengünstigere Diagnostik als die bisherigen, bekannten Verfahren. Mit Eintritt in die Wachstumsphase wird MagnaMedics ihre Vertriebsaktivitäten international ausrichten, wobei der Fokus auf Europa und Nordamerika liegt.

#### **Zielformen mit starkem Wachstumspotenzial**

Die flexiblen Lösungen von MagnaMedics sind universell einsetzbar. Die Anwendungsmöglichkeiten können nach fünf wesentlichen Zielformen unterteilt werden: Im In-vitro-Bereich<sup>1</sup> sind dies die In-vitro-Diagnostik, die Food Diagnostic und Life Science Research. Im In-vivo-Bereich<sup>2</sup> sind es MRT-Anwendungen sowie Drug-Delivery-Systeme. „Diese fünf Zielformen weisen Wachstumsraten zwischen sechs und 15 Prozent auf“, erklärt Horst Gier, Vorstandsmitglied der S-UBG. „Wir sehen MagnaMedics auf dem besten Wege, sich hier zu etablieren und künftig mit weiteren Einsatzgebieten neue Märkte zu erobern.“

1 In vitro: lat. „im Glas“ bezeichnet Vorgänge, die außerhalb des lebenden Organismus stattfinden.

2 In vivo: lat. „im Lebendigen“ bezeichnet Vorgänge, die im lebenden Organismus ablaufen.



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## Über die S-UBG:

Die S-UBG Gruppe, Aachen, ist der führende Partner bei der Bereitstellung von Eigenkapital für etablierte mittelständische Unternehmen (S-UBG AG) und junge, technologieorientierte Start-ups (S-VC GmbH) in den Wirtschaftsregionen Aachen, Krefeld und Mönchengladbach. Die S-UBG AG investiert in Wachstumsbranchen; eine hohe Qualität des Unternehmensmanagements ist für die Beteiligungsgesellschaft ein maßgebliches Investitionskriterium. 1997 gründeten die Gesellschaftersparkassen mit der S-VC GmbH einen eigenen „Early-Stage-Fonds“, um junge Startup- Unternehmen zu finanzieren. 2007 kam der Seed-Fonds Aachen hinzu, der das Angebot um Beteiligungskapital für technologieorientierte Unternehmensgründungen erweitert. Die S-UBG Gruppe ist derzeit an über 40 Unternehmen in der Region beteiligt und nimmt damit einen Spitzenplatz in der Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe ein.

[www.s-ubg.de](http://www.s-ubg.de)

## Über die MagnaMedics GmbH:

Die MagnaMedics GmbH wurde 2003 in Aachen gegründet. Das Unternehmen entwickelt neuartige Nano-Tools und -Systeme für Life Sciences und Medizin. Es verfügt über ein patentiertes Produktportfolio und ein Forschungsteam, das neue Trends in der Nano-Medizin setzen kann. Über eine Tochtergesellschaft der MagnaMedics in Maastricht erfolgt seit 2004 die Produktentwicklung sowie die Herstellung und der Vertrieb weiterer Nano-Produkte.  
[www.magnamedics.com](http://www.magnamedics.com)

## Über die BioScience Ventures Group:

The BioScience Ventures Group (BSVG) ist ein Zusammenschluss von Business Angels, der sich exklusiv auf Investments im Biotechnologie-Frühphasen-Bereich spezialisiert hat. Investmentgrößen variieren von 0,2 bis 0,5 Mio. Euro pro Finanzierungsrunde. BSVG besteht außerdem aus einem erfahrenem Team mit medizinischem und pharmakologischem Background, das auf das Drug Development, Design und die Durchführung präklinischer und klinischer Studien, insbesondere im Bereich von biologischen Wirkstoffen spezialisiert ist.  
[www.bsvg.com](http://www.bsvg.com)

## Über die Limburg Ventures B.V.:

Limburg Ventures ist ein spezialisierter Venture Capital Fonds, der in wachstumsstarke Start-up-Unternehmen aus den Life Sciences und verwandten Bereichen wie der Chemie- und Materialbranche investiert. Der Fonds richtet sich an Firmen in der niederländischen Provinz Limburg und der Maas-Rhein-Region sowie an solche Unternehmen, die ihren Sitz insbesondere auf den Research Campus Chemelot im Norden von Maastricht verlegen möchten.

[www.limburgventures.com](http://www.limburgventures.com)

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## News

23.03.2009

### **March 23rd, 2009: ugichem to enter into research collaboration with Santhera Pharmaceuticals to evaluate and apply ugichem's oligonucleotide platform technology in the field of rare neuromuscular diseases**

**Innsbruck, Austria** - ugichem GmbH, an Austrian biotechnology company, announced today that it has entered into an R&D collaboration with Santhera Pharmaceuticals, a Swiss based specialty pharmaceutical company with a focus on rare neuromuscular diseases, to evaluate its oligonucleotide platform technology for potential novel therapeutics to treat inherited neuromuscular disorders. As part of this collaboration ugichem will provide molecules from its proprietary oligonucleotide chemistry platform. Santhera will be responsible for their preclinical evaluation in disease-relevant in vitro and in vivo models. If successful, Santhera has the right to develop such molecules further towards novel oligonucleotide based therapeutics.

"We are very delighted to welcome Santhera as our first industrial collaboration partner" said Dr. Holger Bock, CEO of ugichem. "We think that rare neuromuscular diseases are a very promising field for our oligonucleotide chemistry, amongst others".

Thomas Meier, Santhera's Chief Scientific Officer, commented: "Santhera's research team is constantly evaluating new treatment strategies for neuromuscular disorders. We believe that oligonucleotide chemistry has the potential to become the next generation of disease-modifying drugs for some of those devastating genetic disorders."

#### **About ugichem:**

ugichem is an innovative Austrian biotech company based on unique chemistry and focused on the development of novel gene silencing drugs, which have the unique property of penetrating into cells without needing additional support of transfection reagents.

#### **About Santhera**

Santhera Pharmaceuticals (SIX: SANN) is a Swiss specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of smallmolecule pharmaceutical products for the treatment of severe neuromuscular diseases, an area of high unmet medical need which includes many orphan indications with no current therapy. Santhera's first product CATENA® is marketed in Canada for the treatment of Friedreich's Ataxia and is investigated in two fully recruited pivotal trials in the United States and in Europe.

For further information, contact

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# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## News

Press release, May 29, 2009



### PRESS RELEASE

#### APEPTICO GmbH closes seed financing round

**29th May, 2009, Vienna, Austria: APEPTICO, a biotechnology company developing novel peptide-based drugs, announced completion of a seed financing round. The EUR 1 Mio equity financing round was led by The BioScience Ventures Group AG (BSVG, [www.bsvg.com](http://www.bsvg.com), Munich/Germany) and included the participation of the Swiss business angel Dr. Jürg Geigy. Both, BSVG and Dr. Geigy are specialised in early stage investments in the biotech industry. The completion of the financing round entitled APEPTICO to receive a grant of EUR 1.2 Mio from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).**

APEPTICO will use the allocated capital to push ahead the pre-clinical development of its lead compound AP301. AP301 is a short and chemically synthesized cyclic peptide that is being developed for the treatment of pulmonary oedema in Acute Lung Injury (ALI) / Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). Both, ALI and ARDS are life-threatening conditions with high mortality rates, and no specific therapeutic or prophylactic drug has been approved by the EMEA or FDA until now. AP301 has additional significant potential in other lung diseases, such as pneumonia and lung transplantation. Patents covering AP301 were recently granted in the EU and the USA.

APEPTICO plans to nominate further molecules for formal pre-clinical development in the future and to broaden application of its PEPBASEO discovery platform in the field of peptide drug identification and validation.

Dr. Bernhard Fischer, CEO of APEPTICO commented: "We are delighted to have secured seed financing, especially at this time of global economic crisis. The commitment of the BSVG and Dr. Jürg Geigy demonstrates the great confidence of our investors in APEPTICO's drug development concept."

– ENDS –

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## Notes to Editors

### About APEPTICO GmbH

APEPTICO is a privately-held pre-clinical stage biotechnology company based in Austria, developing peptide-based products targeting chronic and life-threatening diseases. The peptide molecules correspond to validated, pharmacodynamic active structures and domains of well-known proteins and biopharmaceuticals. By concentrating on synthetically produced protein structures APEPTICO avoids any risk of transmitting microbial and viral infections and development cost, and time to market is significantly reduced if compared to the recombinant development process of biomolecules.

APEPTICO's development platform PEPBASE<sup>®</sup> combines structural, functional and clinical data from relevant biopharmaceuticals and well-characterised proteins. Based on preclinical and clinical data, including adverse reactions, risk factors and contraindications to be circumvented and supported by structural, biochemical and physicochemical data, for each relevant protein a specific profile is established that links biological & functional properties with discrete structural elements.

Prior to the seed financing round, APEPTICO has received pre-seed funding from Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS), from Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG) and from INITS Universitäres Gründerservice in Vienna, Austria.

### About AP301

AP301 is a synthetic peptide that corresponds to a structural motif of the human Tumour Necrosis Factor alpha. It is water soluble and can be administered into the lung as aerosol using standard nebuliser systems. AP301 has been designed for the treatment of Acute Lung Injury (ALI), Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrom (ARDS), Ventilator Associated Lung Injury (VALI), Lung Transplantation, Pneumonia and other form of the permeability oedema. ALI and ARDS are life-threatening diseases associated with mortality rates of 30% to 60%. Currently, no specific treatment is available. AP301 activates lung oedema reabsorption and protects both endothelial and epithelial lung tissue from microbial toxin- and reactive oxygen species-induced hyper-permeability.

### Contacts

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# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

INVESTORS IN GREAT IDEAS

## News

Press release, June 9, 2009



### PRESSE MITTEILUNG

#### **APEPTICO GmbH erhält Preis anlässlich der Verleihung des "Venture Capital & Private Equity Award Österreichs"**

**09. Juni 2009, Wien, Österreich: APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH teilt mit, dass das Unternehmen anlässlich der Verleihung des "Venture Capital & Private Equity Award Österreichs" mit einem Preis ausgezeichnet wurde. Dieser Preis wurde durch den „Styria Börse Express“ und die „Junge Industrie“ verliehen und stellt eine Anerkennung für die kürzlich abgeschlossene Finanzierung des Unternehmens durch Investoren und Österreichische Fördergeber dar.**

Der Gedanke des 2005 erstmals vergebenen "Venture Capital & Private Equity Award Österreichs" ist es, mittels eines einzigartigen Preises Venture Capital und Private Equity Aktivitäten der breiteren Öffentlichkeit näher zu bringen, erfolgreiche und vorbildhafte VC/PE-Deals auszuzeichnen und die handelnden Personen der Kapitalgeber als auch deren Beteiligungsunternehmen bekannter zu machen.

APEPTICO erhielt diesen Preis zusammen mit seinen Investoren, The BioScience Ventures Group AG und dem Schweizer Privatinvestor Dr. Jürg Geigy, sowie mit den Österreichischen Fördergebern Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH und INITS Universitäres Gründerservice Wien GmbH.

Der "Venture Capital & Private Equity Award Österreichs" wird auf Empfehlung einer hochrangig besetzten Jury vergeben, welcher u.a. Herr Reinhold Mitterlehner, Bundesminister für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend, Herr Christian Drastil, Geschäftsführer der Styria Börse Express GmbH, Herr Markus Beyrer, Generalsekretär der Industriellenvereinigung, Markus Fellner, Partner bei Fellner Wratzfeld & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Herr Richard Schenz, Berater des Finanzministers für Fragen der Kapitalmarktentwicklung und der Corporate Governance, angehören.

Dr. Bernhard Fischer, CEO von APEPTICO kommentierte: „Wir sind sehr glücklich, dass unsere kürzlich abgeschlossene Finanzierungsrunde offenbar in Österreich Maßstäbe setzt. APEPTICO ist ein junges, forschendes Biotechnologie-Unternehmen, welches ideale Investoren und Fördergeber mit einem neuartigen Entwicklungskonzept überzeugen konnte.“

- Ende -

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## **Zusätzliche Informationen für Herausgeber**

Über APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH

APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH ([www.aeptico.com](http://www.aeptico.com)) konzentriert sich auf die Erkennung und Entwicklung von pharmakologisch wirksamen Nano-Peptiden - auf der Basis bio-aktiver Makromoleküle - zur Entwicklung von innovativen Arzneimitteln für die klinische und therapeutische Behandlung von schweren und chronischen Erkrankungen. Derzeit entwickelt APEPTICO das biologisch aktive Peptide „AP301“ zur Behandlung des Akuten Lungenschadens (ALI).

Über The BioScience Ventures Group AG

The BioScience Ventures Group (BSVG, [www.bsvg.com](http://www.bsvg.com), München, Deutschland) ist ein Zusammenschluss von Business Angels, der sich exklusiv auf Investments im Biotechnologie-Frühphasen-Bereich spezialisiert hat und unterstützt das Drug Development, Design und die Durchführung präklinischer und klinischer Studien, insbesondere im Bereich von biologischen Wirkstoffen.

Über Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH

Die Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH ([www.ffg.at](http://www.ffg.at)) ist die nationale Förderstelle für anwendungsorientierte und wirtschaftsnahe Forschung in Österreich. Sie unterstützt österreichische Unternehmen, Forschungsinstitutionen, Forscherinnen und Forscher mit einem umfassenden Angebot von Dienstleistungen und Förderungsprogrammen der öffentlichen Hand.“

Über INITS Universitäres Gründerservice Wien GmbH

Die INITS Universitäres Gründerservice Wien GmbH ([www.inits.at](http://www.inits.at)) ist das Wiener Zentrum des AplusB-Programms des Infrastrukturministeriums. INITS ist eine Gesellschaft des Zentrums für Innovation & Technologie der Stadt Wien (ZIT), der Universität Wien und der Technischen Universität Wien. INITS fördert Innovationen aus den Bereichen Informations- und Kommunikationstechnik, Life Science und anderen Forschungsbereichen.

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# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## News

Press release, July 20, 2009



### PRESS RELEASE

#### **APEPTICO granted Orphan Medicinal Product Designation by EMEA for lead product AP301**

**20th July, 2009, Vienna, Austria:** APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH, a biotechnology company developing novel peptide-based drugs, today announced that it has received Orphan Medicinal Product Designation in the European Union from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for APEPTICO's lead product AP301 ("Human tumour necrosis factor alpha-derived peptide") for the "treatment of Acute Lung Injury".

AP301 is APEPTICO's lead product and is a peptide version of the "TIP-motif" of the human tumour necrosis factor alpha which acts as a potent and target-specific peptide activating alveolar liquid reabsorption and counter-acts hyper-permeability of both endothelial and epithelial lung cells. Alveolar oedema and hyper-permeability are main causes of Acute Lung Injury.

Dr. Bernhard Fischer, CEO of APEPTICO commented: "I am pleased that the EMA has approved the Orphan Medicinal Product Designation for AP301 for treatment of Acute Lung Injury and that the focus of the EMA is on medicinal product quality. There is a real unmet medical need for a product that works to clear excess of alveolar liquid and that counter-acts both microbial toxins and reactive oxygen species which lead to lung microvascular damage. Currently there is no specific therapy authorised in Europe to prevent or treat this condition and we hope to make an important contribution to the field of clinical medicine and to improve patient outcomes in Acute Lung Injury."

-- ENDS --

#### *Notes to Editors:*

#### About APEPTICO GmbH

APEPTICO is a privately-held biotechnology company based in Austria, developing peptide-based products targeting chronic and life-threatening diseases. The peptide molecules correspond to validated, pharmacodynamic active structures and domains of well-known proteins and biopharmaceuticals. By concentrating on synthetically produced protein structures APEPTICO avoids any risk of transmitting microbial and viral infections. Development cost and time to market are significantly reduced if compared to the recombinant development process of biomolecules.

APEPTICO's development platform PEPBASE™ combines structural, functional and clinical data from relevant biopharmaceuticals and well-characterised proteins. Based on preclinical and clinical data, including adverse reactions, risk factors and contraindications to be circumvented and supported by structural, biochemical and physicochemical data, for each relevant protein a specific profile is established that links biological & functional properties with discrete structural elements.

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

INVESTORS IN GREAT IDEAS

## News

Press release, July 20, 2009



### **About Acute Lung Injury and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome**

Acute Lung Injury (ALI) is a pulmonary disorder characterised by acute onset, bilateral pulmonary infiltrates on chest radiograph consistent with pulmonary oedema, poor systemic oxygenation, and the absence of evidence of left arterial hypertension. There are many possible causes of ALI, such as inhaling high concentrations of smoke, toxins, or oxygen; severe burns; blood infections; lung infections; or trauma to other parts of the body. Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is the most catastrophic form of ALI.

Lungs contain alveoli, which are tiny air sacs where the oxygen is passed into the blood. In ALI blood and fluid begin to leak into the alveoli. When this happens, oxygen cannot enter the alveoli, which means oxygen is no longer getting into the blood. Because the lungs are inflamed and filled with fluid, the patient finds it increasingly difficult to breathe. ALI is life-threatening because it makes breathing extremely difficult. The mortality rate of ALI/ARDS is 30% to 60% within 2 to 4 weeks.

Currently, no approved pharmacological therapy for ALI is available. ALI patients are treated with intensive support, which includes various strategies for assisted ventilation. A large number of treatments have failed to improve survival. These include glucocorticosteroids, surfactant, prostaglandin E1, ketoconazole, prostacyclin, nitric oxide, and almitrine.

### **About AP301**

AP301 is a synthetic peptide that corresponds to a structural motif of the human Tumour Necrosis Factor alpha. It is water soluble and can be administered into the lung by instillation or as aerosol. AP301 has been designed for the treatment of Acute Lung Injury and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and has additional significant potential in other forms of permeability oedema and ischemia-reperfusion injury, such as lung transplantation and pneumonia. AP301 activates lung oedema reabsorption and protects both endothelial and epithelial lung cells from microbial toxin- and reactive oxygen species-induced hyper-permeability.

### **About Orphan Medicinal Product Designation in the EU**

“Orphan medicinal products” are intended for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of rare and life-threatening or chronically debilitating conditions. The legislative framework for orphan medicines aims to stimulate research and development of medicines for rare diseases by providing incentives to the pharmaceutical industry. These incentives include fee reductions or exemptions for regulatory services, 10 year marketing exclusivity and direct access to EU registration via a centralized procedure, resulting in one single license for 27 EU member states.

### **Contact**

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# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## News

Press release, August 11, 2009



### Adriacell Closing of A Round Financing

11th August 2009, Trieste – Italy: Adriacell, a preclinical, oncology-focused biotech company announced the completion of A round financing.

The BioScience Ventures Group AG, Innogest Capital and the Friulia SGR AIAdInn Venture Fund took part in the round. With this financing round, Adriacell receives equity totaling over €3 million. Adriacell has also recently received outright grants from the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and the European Union to a total of €2.3million.

Christian Kuehne, CEO of Adriacell said "We are pleased to have closed this financing round and appreciate the commitment of the investors in funding Adriacell's next steps. This second closing with our seed investors BSVG, Innogest Capital and AIAdInn Ventures Fund is proof of their confidence in Adriacell's program."

Adriacell will use the financing to accelerate the pre-clinical development of its lead CROMOC AdriaC36 molecule that shows high specificity for solid organ tumors. AdriaC36 is in preclinical development with current activity focused on generating additional efficacy and pharmaco-kinetic data and the cGMP manufacture of drug product for toxicology and Phase I studies.

AdriaC36 is the prototype for the proprietary CROMOC platform at Adriacell. CROMOC has the potential to follow up on the development with a range of macromolecule therapeutics for intracellular application and is based on a format comprising 3 elements; a peptide targeting sequence, a therapeutically active payload and a site-suitable for post expression modification.

In addition to the CROMOC platform, Adriacell has generated high affinity and specificity MAbs for the early diagnosis of cervical cancer. This overcomes a major obstacle to the development of non-surrogate markers for cervical cancer, opening up a significant opportunity for the development of a diagnostic tool that accurately detects the presence of cervical cancer in prescreened and at-risk women.

### About Adriacell

Adriacell is a biotechnology company focused on the research and development of new generation biopharmaceuticals for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer located in Trieste, Northern Italy.

Adriacell is currently developing two formats: CROMOC, a tumor therapeutic agent and CERVIMAX which addresses the critical need for the early and accurate diagnosis of cervical cancer. Adriacell is a fast growing, dynamic company which benefits from the continued local support of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

### About CROMOC

Adriacell's CROMOC represents a new class of cancer therapeutics. CROMOC molecules are biomolecules that actively penetrate cell walls and function inside the cell. CROMOC molecules distribute equally well in the body but do not cross the blood brain barrier. For cellular import, specific sequences are engineered to the same molecule. By a high sensitive mode of action, considerable effects can be achieved with very low concentrations.

### Contacts

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# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

INVESTORS IN GREAT IDEAS

## News

Press release, September 08, 2009



### **APEPTICO presents its lead product AP301 at the Annual Congress of the European Respiratory Society in Vienna, Austria**

**08th September, 2009, Vienna, Austria: APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH, a biotechnology company developing a novel peptide-based drug for the treatment of the life threatening disease "Acute Lung Injury" today announced, that it will present its most recent scientific results for APEPTICO's lead compound AP301 at the Annual Congress of the European Respiratory Society which starts on 12th September 2009 in Vienna, Austria.**

At the Annual Congress of the European Respiratory Society (ERS), Prof. Dr. Rudolf Lucas, cofounder and Chief Scientific Officer of APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH, will present the most recent results for APEPTICO's lead compound AP301 to the audience of international clinicians and scientists. AP301, which recently received Orphan Drug Designation from the European Commission, is being developed by APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH for the treatment of the life threatening disease "Acute Lung Injury". Prof. Lucas will give oral presentations on 13th September entitled "The lectin-like domain of TNF improves lung function after rat lung transplantation - potential role for a reduction in Reactive Oxygen Species generation" and on 15th September entitled "Novel regulators of alveolar liquid clearance".

The ERS Congress is the largest international conference specialising in pulmonary medicine. It provides a unique forum where scientists and medical professionals from around the world have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and information in the field of respiratory medicine. The scientific programme of the ERS Congress aims to provide a perfect balance between clinical education and the latest scientific developments. The ERS Congress highlights key issues in the diagnosis, management and treatment of respiratory diseases, giving clinicians and research scientists the opportunity to report the latest findings in basic, clinical and population research.

Dr. Bernhard Fischer, CEO of APEPTICO commented: "I am pleased that the ERS Congress organising committee is giving Professor Rudolf Lucas the opportunity to present our most recent results for AP301 in the context of two scientific symposia. In addition, at the invitation of the ERS Congress organisers, APEPTICO will be presenting the development stage biotechnology company in the scientific exhibition area. There are only a handful of companies in Austria developing biotechnology-based medicine for the treatment of pulmonary diseases." "Please visit APEPTICO at booth D.06 during the ERS Congress" added Dr. Fischer.

-- ENDS --

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News

Press release, June 24, 2010



**MaRVis Technologies GmbH achieves proof-of-concept for novel medical devices in magnetic resonance imaging – guided treatments**

*June 24th, 2010 – MaRVis Technologies GmbH, Aachen (Germany) has achieved proof-of-concept for its novel platform technology for medical devices (guidewires, catheters, etc.) to be used in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) – guided treatments. So far adequate devices have not yet been available. MaRVis has created first-in-class technology and product prototypes for application in radiology, neuroradiology, cardiology and interventional tumor therapy.*

MaRVis Technologies GmbH, a venture capital backed German medical technology company, has achieved proof-of-concept for its novel platform technology for medical devices (e.g. guidewires and catheters) to be used in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) – guided treatments. Today MRI is extensively applied for diagnostic purposes to deliver high resolution images of soft tissue in the human body, e.g. of the brain, organs, blood vessels or tumors. MRI avoids X-ray burden and use of contrast agents and is superior to X-ray imaging for radiological interventions in respect of details of soft tissue images and additional physiological information which can be obtained in MRI.

Application of MRI to interventional treatments has been limited so far to the use of short cannulae and needles as other currently available commercial medical devices are not compatible with MRI. Guidewires contain long metal wires which lead to electric conductivity and heating in MRI so that the patient and the physician are endangered. Similarly, catheters usually contain a metal braid. Removal of the metal wires or braids from the devices leads to mechanically highly insufficient instruments. Recent attempts to solve this material problem have not yet delivered useful tools, neither in terms of mechanical characteristics nor of MRI visualization.

The new MaRVis technology offers first-in-class flexibility and a powerful platform for the design of a large number of individual medical devices. MaRVis guidewires and catheters are built from glass fiber – epoxy resin basic building blocks («MaRVis rods») of which several are arranged in a multi-composite design by embedding in an envelope polymer or in the catheter wall, resp. The epoxy resin contains metal particles as MRI and/or X-ray markers. During development, the focus has been laid on integration of good material characteristics on the one hand and adaptable MRI visualization on the other hand.

A series of guidewire prototypes has been successfully tested for mechanical and imaging characteristics. The mechanical properties of a commercial gold-standard guidewire have been met by the MaRVis guidewire. The MRI-guidewires are strong insulators, thus ruling out electrical conductivity and induced heating risks. MRI signal strength and width can be flexibly adjusted and varied.

# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

INVESTORS IN GREAT IDEAS

## News

Press release, June 24, 2010



Visualization has been extensively tested in MRI and X-ray in steady-state and flow phantoms and animal trials. Final in vivo proof-of-concept for interventional procedures has been achieved by demonstrating catheterization of the renal artery in a pig under MRI visualization. Handling of the guidewire prototypes has been rated by radiologists to be comparable to that of the reference guidewire. Time periods required to perform the various interventions in angiography were almost identical for the commercial benchmark guidewire and the novel MaRVis guidewire prototype.

Dr. Klaus Duering, CEO of MaRVis Technologies GmbH, commented: „We are proud to have achieved the strategic goal of proof-of-concept for our novel integrated platform with a series of MRI-guidewire prototypes within only two years of process and product development from the scratch. The results demonstrate the strong power of this platform technology. Discussions with expert physicians have confirmed the strong interest of the medical community in our new products – enabling MRI-guided interventional treatments physicians are looking for to realize for a long time already.“ The company also develops a catheter prototype and carries out further technology improvements and extensions.

Basic manufacturing processes have been developed which allow rapid transfer to industrial scale and final product design and testing. Dr. Duering explains: „We are convinced that within about three years the first product could reach the market. Our strategy is partnering with a global medical device company for a straightforward move to integrated system development, clinical testing and final product approval.“

MaRVis has created a key prerequisite for routine realization of MRI-guided interventions in radiology, neuroradiology, cardiology and interventional tumor treatment.

### **About MaRVis Technologies GmbH**

MaRVis Technologies GmbH is a medical device company owning a proprietary platform technology which allows visualization of medical devices in interventional treatments guided by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Proof-of-concept has validated its commercial applicability. A strategic cooperation with the established medical devices industry shall lead to commercialization of the platform technology and a broad range of proprietary medical devices.

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# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

INVESTORS IN GREAT IDEAS

## Links

We have assembled a list of websites which we consider useful sources of information in helping aspiring entrepreneurs with a biotechnology or medical focus gather information for their efforts.

### Entrepreneur Sites:

[www.bizstartupguide.com](http://www.bizstartupguide.com)

A web site that educates persons on how to set-up and start their own business, by providing them with relevant information.

[www.businessplan.com](http://www.businessplan.com)

BusinessPlan - Provides resources and tips on how a business plan should be written.

[www.entreworld.org](http://www.entreworld.org)

Entreworld - Provides resources for entrepreneurs.

[www.startupjournal.com](http://www.startupjournal.com)

StartUpJournal - The Wall Street Journal's center for entrepreneurs.

[www.tie.org](http://www.tie.org)

TIE - The Indus Entrepreneurs non-profit global network of entrepreneurs and professionals established to foster entrepreneurship.

### Life Science Research Sites:

[www.bio.com](http://www.bio.com)

BioOnline - Online resource for the life sciences.

[www.biomednet.com](http://www.biomednet.com)

BioMedNet - Website for biological medical researchers. Is owned by Elsevier Science and is part of the Reed Elsevier group of companies.

[www.biospace.com](http://www.biospace.com)

BioSpace - Life sciences-related information and service resource.

[www.genomeweb.com](http://www.genomeweb.com)

GenomeWeb - Provider of news and information on the business and technology of genomics and bioinformatics worldwide.

[www.isinet.com](http://www.isinet.com)

Isinet - ISI maintains global bibliographic databases of research information.

[www.i-squared.imshealth.com](http://www.i-squared.imshealth.com)

I-Squared. IMS Health - Is an internet portal providing access to IMS Health information on the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries.

[www.lib.umich.edu/taubman](http://www.lib.umich.edu/taubman)

Taubman Medical Library - Website for the University of Michigan, Taubman Medical Library.

[www.mayohealth.org](http://www.mayohealth.org)

Mayo Clinic - Website for The Mayo Clinic.

[www.mdn.stanford.edu](http://www.mdn.stanford.edu)

Medical Device Network - Encourages and facilitates invention, patenting and early-stage development of medical devices.

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[www.medscape.com](http://www.medscape.com)

Medscape - Free online health service.

[www.mskcc.org](http://www.mskcc.org)

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center - Website for the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

[www.pharmaflash.de](http://www.pharmaflash.de)

Pharmaflash - German language website and newsletter exclusively for the healthcare market.

[www.pharmalicensing.com](http://www.pharmalicensing.com)

Pharmalicensing - The definitive resource tool for pharmaceutical and biotech licensing executives.

[www.reutershealth.com](http://www.reutershealth.com)

Reuters Health - Reuters online health information.

#### **Patents and Government Organisation Sites:**

[eudraportal.eura.org](http://eudraportal.eura.org)

EMA - European medical and pharmaceutical regulatory agency.

[www.epo.org](http://www.epo.org)

European Patent Office - European organization for patenting and licensing.

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

FDA - Information about the U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulatory process.

#### **Venture Capital Sites:**

[www.evca.com](http://www.evca.com)

EVCA - European Private Equity and Venture Capital Association.

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INVESTORS IN GREAT IDEAS

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### **Starting Point:** [Munich Airport](#)

#### **How To Find Us**

Taxi: Take a taxi to Odeonsplatz and walk down the Residenzstrasse to our office in the pedestrian zone.

Public Transportation: Take the Airport train (S-Bahn S1 or S8) to Marienplatz. Exit the station and walk down the Dienerstrasse past "Dallmayr" towards the Oper in the Residenzstrasse (pedestrian zone).

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### **Starting Point:** [Main Train Station](#)

#### **How To Find Us**

Taxi: Take a taxi either to the Oper or Odeonsplatz and walk down the Residenzstrasse to our office in the pedestrian zone.

Public Transportation: Take the subway U4 (direction Arabella Park) or U5 (direction Neuperlach-Süd) and exit at Odeonsplatz. Then walk down the Residenzstrasse to our office in the pedestrian zone.

---

### **Starting Point:** [Car](#)

#### **How To Find Us**

Exit the Autobahn and follow the signs to the Mittlerer Ring driving towards the city center/Innenstadt. After having reached the Altstadtring turn into the Maximilianstrasse and follow the signs to the Oper. Public parking is available at the Oper.

The stairs exiting out of the parking garage end in a shopping passage. Next to the stairs is the entrance to our office in the Residenzstrasse.

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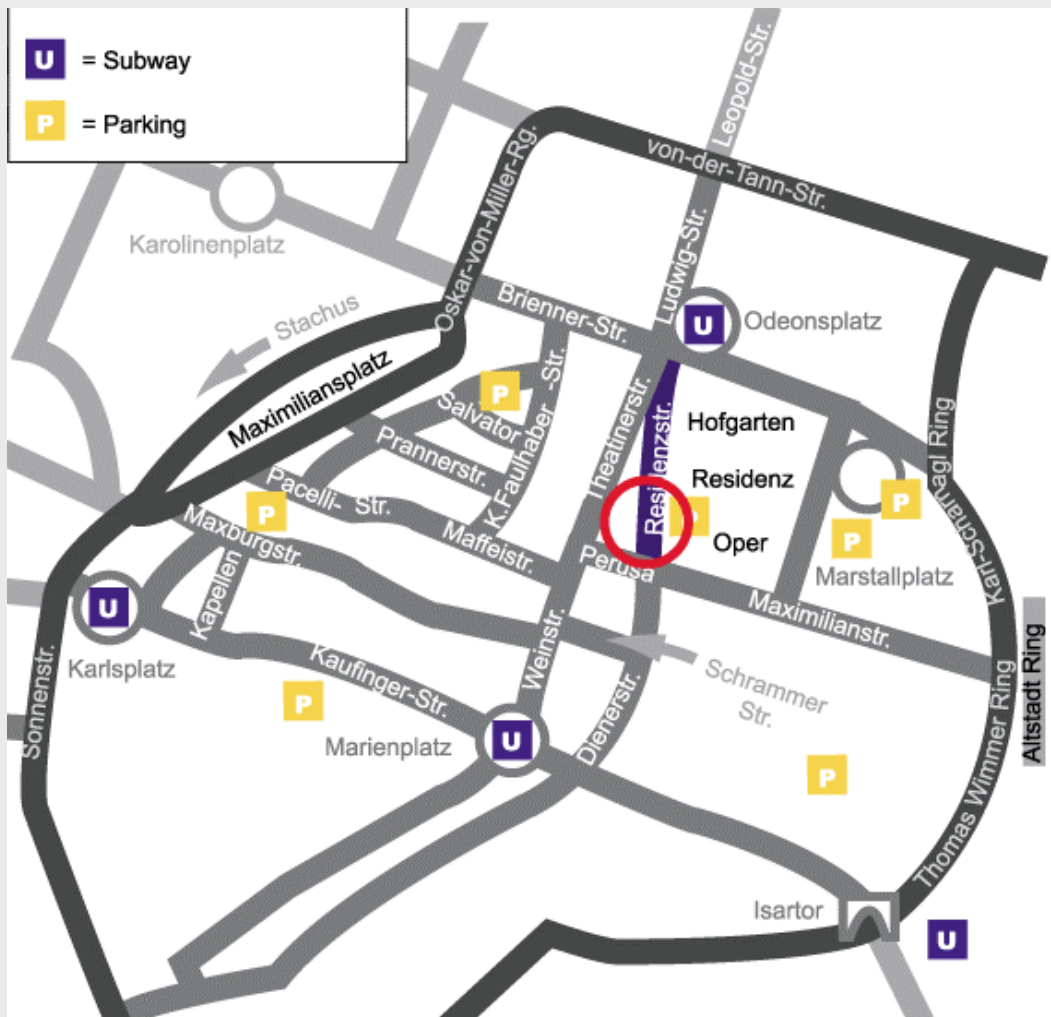


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# THE BIO SCIENCE VENTURES GROUP

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## Imprint

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**Registration office:** Munich

**Company registration number:** HRB 137591

**Sales tax identification number:** DE 21 32 75 304

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