

## **Polyphor announces first PEMfinder<sup>®</sup> collaboration with Big Pharma**

**Allschwil, Switzerland, May 6, 2010** - Polyphor Ltd today announced that it has entered into a drug discovery collaboration with Novartis. Under the terms of the collaboration, Polyphor will apply its proprietary PEM (Protein Epitope Mimetics) drug discovery technology to identify novel PEMdrug candidates against drug targets of interest to Novartis. Novartis will provide Polyphor with an upfront payment, research funding and milestone payments as candidate molecules progress through the drug discovery process, preclinical and clinical development and onto the market. In addition, Polyphor is eligible to receive royalties on the commercial sales of approved products.

PEMdrugs have been shown to interfere in a highly potent and selective manner with large surface protein-protein interactions and other challenging drug targets. Polyphor will be responsible for the design, synthesis and optimization of PEMdrug candidates and Novartis will be responsible for the clinical development and commercialization of jointly developed products. Polyphor will apply its proprietary drug discovery tools, including the PEMfinder<sup>®</sup> substance library and PEMphage Technology, to identify and optimize novel PEMdrug candidates.

*Jean-Pierre Obrecht, CEO of Polyphor, commented:*

The combination of Novartis' expertise regarding the therapeutic targets they have selected and PEM Technology represents an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the broad applicability of our technology platform and our drug discovery capabilities.

### **About Polyphor Ltd:**

Polyphor Ltd is a privately held Swiss biotech company founded in 1996 committed to providing innovative products with high therapeutic benefit to the patient and high quality drug discovery support to its pharmaceutical industry partners. Polyphor has developed its proprietary Protein Epitope Mimetics (PEM) Technology, built-up an attractive PEMdrug portfolio and evolved into a clinical stage company. Its product portfolio includes POL6326, a CXCR4 antagonist, currently in Phase II trials for stem cell transplant in multiple myeloma patients, POL7080 a highly specific antibiotic with a novel mechanism of action and several preclinical PEMdrug candidates targeting lung and skin diseases as well as indications related to inflammation and cancer.

For additional information, please visit [www.polyphor.com](http://www.polyphor.com)

### **Contact:**

Michael Altorfer, Ph.D.  
Head Corporate Communications and CFO  
Polyphor Ltd  
t: +41 61 567 16 00  
e: [PR@polyphor.com](mailto:PR@polyphor.com)