

MERRION PHARMACEUTICALS

**Announces Participation at the 14th Annual Drug Delivery Partnerships,
Orlando, Florida.**

**Presentation Wednesday 27th January 2010 'Partnering in Oral Drug
Delivery of Therapeutic Polypeptides for the Treatment of Diabetes-
the Novo Nordisk A/S- Merrion Collaboration'**

DUBLIN, IRELAND, 27th January 2010 – Merrion Pharmaceuticals, plc, today announced its participation at the 14th Annual Drug Delivery Partnerships Conference in Orlando, Florida.

On the conference agenda is a presentation by Novo Nordisk entitled "Partnering in Oral Drug Delivery of Therapeutic Polypeptides for the Treatment of Diabetes – The Novo Nordisk A/S – Merrion Collaboration"

The presentation will take place as a 'Hot Deal' presentation on Wednesday 27th January at 2.15pm.

Delivered by Tomas Landh, PhD, Director, Strategy and Sourcing, Novo Nordisk A/S, the presentation highlights the strategic effort of Novo Nordisk to deliver an oral protein formulation through attracting world class drug delivery partners. The presentation focuses on the success of Merrion Pharmaceuticals as a drug delivery partner and highlights the achievement of the licensing agreement between NN and Merrion.

In Nov 2008, Merrion and NN announced the licensing agreement to develop and commercialise oral formulations of Novo Nordisk's proprietary insulin analogues, using Merrion's proprietary GIPET[®] technology (Gastrointestinal Permeation Enhancement Technology).

Twelve months later, the initiation of clinical trials was announced. In the intervening period a successful collaboration between the companies resulted in the rapid achievement of this major milestone.

Novo Nordisk are presenting the accomplishment of this collaboration with Merrion as an industry example of the success that can be achieved through integrating science and skills.

According to John Lynch, Merrion Pharmaceuticals Chief Executive Officer, the event presents Merrion with a compelling platform from which to showcase its new technologies and licensing successes. "I'm delighted to be in attendance at this event as it celebrates the achievements to date of this important collaboration and is an extremely positive development for Merrion. This is an important programme for Merrion and we are determined to ensure that our highly motivated team of specialists maximises the likelihood of success for Novo Nordisk's oral insulin candidates."

Merrion Pharmaceuticals

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Novo Nordisk is a healthcare company and a world leader in diabetes care. In addition, Novo Nordisk has a leading position within areas such as haemostasis management, growth hormone therapy and hormone replacement therapy. Novo Nordisk manufactures and markets pharmaceutical products and services that make a significant difference to patients, the medical profession and society. With headquarters in Denmark, Novo Nordisk employs more than 29,000 employees in 81 countries, and markets its products in 179 countries. Novo Nordisk's B shares are listed on the stock exchanges in Copenhagen and London. Its ADRs are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol 'NVO'. For more information, visit novonordisk.com.

Merrion Pharmaceuticals (www.merrionpharma.com) is engaged in the development of oral forms (tablets/capsules) of drugs that have poor absorption and are generally given by injection. Merrion was established in 2003 to commercialize various technologies acquired from Elan Corporation, plc. Merrion Pharmaceutical's patented drug delivery technologies increase bioavailability, by improving absorption in the gastrointestinal tract, of drugs that are otherwise poorly absorbed. Merrion utilizes its technology to develop new oral drugs in two ways; it develops its own proprietary drugs using GIPET and partners with other pharmaceutical companies in developing oral GIPET formulations of their products. Merrion is listed at the Dublin Stock Exchange under the symbol MERR.

