

## PRESSRELEASE



### **Over 4 MUSD invested in a new anti smoking vaccine clinical trial**

*Stockholm, Sweden, Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2004.*

**Independent Pharmaceutica AB today announced the completion of a 2nd private placement round, raising 31.6 million SEK (4.4 MUSD) from an investment consortium including two of the existing investors, Karolinska Investment Fund and LH Advisory AB as well as five new investors.**

“We believe this to be a financially sound investment with a high risk like in any biomedical project. The potential market is massive. If the vaccine becomes a success it will be of a substantial importance from a public health point of view as well. This fact makes it even more interesting as an investment”, says Mr Per-Olof Edin, Chairman of the board at Österjöstiftelsen (The Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies).

“We are extremely pleased to have raised this money in a difficult market. This will allow us to, for the first time in humans, confirm the results from preclinical tests of our unique nicotine vaccine. The results from the phase I clinical trial will be available within a year”, says Lena Degling Wikingsson, CEO of Independent Pharmaceutica.

Independent Pharmaceutica AB develops Niccine®, a vaccine against smoking and nicotine addiction. After vaccination, the vaccine induces specific and long lasting nicotine binding antibodies. This nicotine-antibody complex prevents nicotine from reaching the brain to induce its nicotine rewarding effects.

Niccine® will be relevant to at least two groups of smokers and previous smokers, including smokers using nicotine replacement products:

- In smoking cessation i.e. current smokers attempting to quit
- In relapse prevention i.e. former smokers wanting to avoid the risk of relapse

#### **About Independent Pharmaceutica AB**

Independent Pharmaceutica AB is a Swedish research and development company based at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. The company was founded in 1997 by Professor Torgny Svensson with the idea to combine world class expertise for research and development at the Swedish medical university, Karolinska Institutet, with other expertise in the fields of psychotropic drugs, drug dependency, smoking cessation and vaccine technology. The company focuses on the development of a vaccine against nicotine addiction. The company has two patents granted in the US and one in Australia that protects the unique properties of the vaccine. One of the patents has been accepted by the European patent office and the other one will soon be accepted.

#### **For further information, please contact**

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