



EPICURE

PRESS RELEASE

6th February 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION

EPICURE:

**An EU funded FP6 project looking at Functional Genomics and Neurobiology of Epilepsy:
*A Basis for New Therapeutic Strategies***

EPICURE is one of the most exciting European research projects involving 29 collaborating partners from 13 countries, undertaking ground-breaking research over a period of 4 years, on a budget of 12 million euro supported by EU FP6 research funds. EPICURE will identify the disease-causing genes and their functional role for both inherited acquired epilepsies, which will be investigated in animal models and human tissue with a focus on drug resistant temporal lobe epilepsy, and epilepsies due to developmental cortical abnormalities. Project Coordinator is Professor Giuliano Avanzini, Fondazione IRCCS, Istituto Neurologico 'Carlo Besta', Milan.

A main effort of EPICURE is devoted to investigating developmental aspects of epileptogenesis that account for the high frequency of epilepsies in children and for their often severe prognosis. Strictly related to the above research lines are the pharmacological approaches by which EPICURE aims at:

- developing more effective antiepileptic strategies
- understanding the biological bases of pharmacoresistance
- evaluating the potential of innovative therapeutic
- approaches based on synaptic modulation by neurotrophic factors and cell cycle kinase inhibitors.

The EPICURE Partners are:

Italy:	Fondazione IRCCS, Istituto Neurologico 'Carlo Besta' Italy; Università degli Studi di Verona Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Casimiro Mondino Università degli Studi di Ferrara Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri Istituto Giannina Gaslini CF Consulting Finanziamenti Unione Europea srl Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Meyer
France:	Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Medicale OZ Biosciences Neurokin SARL
Germany:	Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen-Nurnberg Universitaetsklinikum Bonn Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin Universitätsklinikum Ulm Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz Philipps-Universität Marburg
Hungary:	Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Kiserleti Orvostudományi Kutatóintézet
Sweden:	Lunds Universitet
Netherlands:	Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht
Finland:	Helsingin Yliopisto, Finland; Kuopion Yliopisto
Turkey:	Istanbul Üniversitesi Ileri Tip Teknolojileri Dan. Hizm. San. Tic. Ltd. Sti
Spain:	Fundación Jiménez Díaz UTE
Austria:	Medizinische Universität Innsbruck
UK:	University College London
Denmark:	Ns gene A/S
Ireland:	Brainwave on behalf of International Bureau for Epilepsy

The EPICURE Advisory Board Members are:

Mary Baker, UK; Hanneke de Boer, Netherlands; Susanne Lund, Sweden; Janet Mifsud, Malta

For further information visit www.epicureproject.eu or contact:

Project Dissemination: Brainwave on behalf of International Bureau for Epilepsy ibedublin@eircom.net