



Press release

Stockholm, May 5, 2006

## Affibody AB provides novel molecular imaging agents for visualizing HER2-expressing cancer

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 5, 2006 - Affibody AB today announced that Cancer Research, the official publication of American Association of Cancer Research (AACR), has published an article by Affibody and collaborators on the development and evaluation of a new targeting molecule that can be used for visualization of HER2-expressing cancers.**

The article, entitled "Tumor Imaging Using a Picomolar Affinity HER2 Binding Affibody<sup>®</sup> Molecule", is authored by A. Orlova and co-workers and appeared in print form of the April 15<sup>th</sup> issue of Cancer Research (Volume 66, pages 4339-4348). The authors reported on the development of a HER2-specific Affibody<sup>®</sup> molecule having an extremely high affinity (22 picomolar). The advantage of this high affinity for the oncogene product HER2 was shown in tumor targeting experiments and the utility of the drug for imaging purposes was demonstrated using gamma camera detection of HER2-expressing xenografted tumors within hours after injection.

Summarizing the results, Dr. Fredrik Nilsson, project manager and corresponding author said: "We have succeeded in engineering extremely high affinity into a small molecule. In molecular imaging, small size is the key to success, as it allows for rapid kinetics and high contrast imaging within hours after injection".

Dr. Lars Abrahmsén, Chief Scientific Officer at Affibody, commented: "Affibody<sup>®</sup> molecules are perfectly suited for imaging agents due to their very small size combined with high specificity for their target. This work validates our generic lead optimization process and unequivocally proves that it is possible to engineer very high affinities into Affibody<sup>®</sup> molecules. Based on these achievements it is now possible to develop Affibody<sup>®</sup> ligands for clinical use in molecular imaging and targeted therapeutics."

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### **About Affibody AB**

Affibody is a life science company focusing on oncology. Based on its proprietary technology platform, Affibody has developed a unique oncology pipeline, covering the entire value chain from research reagents to molecular imaging agents and targeted therapeutics.



Affibody uses innovative protein engineering technologies for the development of affinity ligands, the Affibody<sup>®</sup> molecules. These small robust protein molecules can be designed to bind to any target protein, are easily produced and have a high stability in a wide range of conditions.

The Affibody<sup>®</sup> molecules are ideal for molecular imaging and the same Affibody<sup>®</sup> molecule can with a cytotoxic payload be utilized for targeted therapeutics. Affibody's vision is to be a leading player in the emerging field of molecular imaging and targeted therapeutics.

Affibody also develops Affibody<sup>®</sup> molecules for various biotechnology applications in a number of commercial collaborations.

Affibody was founded in 1998 by researchers from the Royal Institute of Technology and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Among the owners of Affibody AB are the investment companies HealthCap, Schroder Ventures Life Sciences and Investor Growth Capital. Affibody is based in Stockholm, Sweden and has 50 employees. Further information is found on: [www.affibody.com](http://www.affibody.com)

*Statements in this press release that are not strictly historical may be forward-looking and include risks and uncertainties. Therefore, though based on Affibody's current expectations, it should be duly noted that a variety of factors could cause actual results and experiences to differ materially from what is herein expressed. Risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, risks associated with the management of growth and international operations (including effects of currency fluctuations), variability of operating results, unforeseen changes in the diagnostic and pharmaceutical markets, market competition, rapid or unexpected changes in technologies, fluctuations in product demand, difficulties to successfully develop, adapt, produce or commercialize products, the ability to identify and develop new products and to differentiate products from those of competitors, as well as various legal hazards.*