

THE COLUMN GROUP ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF INVESTMENT TEAM - NAMES MAGNUS PERSSON MANAGING PARTNER

San Francisco, CA – November 5, 2009 – The Column Group, a leading venture capital firm dedicated to creating the next generation of biotechnology companies, today announced the expansion of the firm's investment team with the appointment of Magnus Persson, M.D., Ph.D., as Managing Partner starting January 1, 2010.

Dr. Persson joins The Column Group from HealthCap where he was a Partner since 1996. During his time there he served as an observer or board director on the boards of several European and US companies such as PTC Therapeutics, ChemoCentryx, Five Prime Therapeutics and Alba Therapeutics. "As a highly experienced builder of biotechnology companies and a distinguished academic researcher and physician, Magnus Persson brings tremendous insight into the critical evaluation of new investment opportunities. His experience will be of great value to the continued success of The Column Group's existing portfolio companies. We are very pleased to add Magnus' expertise on the translation of scientific discoveries into therapeutic products. He is a great addition to the team," said Peter Svenilsson, Managing Partner of The Column Group.

Prior to joining HealthCap in 1996, Dr. Persson worked as Clinical Research Physician with Sanofi Winthrop. Before this position, he was a Lecturer and an Associate Professor in Physiology at the Karolinska Institute. In addition to teaching medical students, he pursued scientific research and he is the author of scientific articles on cardiovascular, pulmonary and gastrointestinal physiology. He received his medical education at the Karolinska Institute and at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Persson is a co-founder of Aerocrine AB, an innovative medical company listed on NASDAQ/OMX.

About The Column Group:

The Column Group is a leading venture capital firm dedicated to creating the next generation of biotechnology companies. We will invest in approximately 10 disease-focused drug discovery companies per fund, each with the potential to become a leader in its respective field. These companies will be strongly supported by the unique and complementary skill sets of our team, which includes prominent authorities in the scientific, operational and financial arenas. TCG invests through the lifecycle of its portfolio companies from seed and early stage to later stages of development. The Column Group seeks to partner with exceptional scientific founders, entrepreneurs and investment organizations that share our vision for building the next generation of drug discovery and development companies. For more information on The Column Group, please visit www.thecolumngroup.net

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