

## Sanofi-aventis launches SoloSTAR®

- *SoloSTAR® - The new prefilled, disposable insulin pen to benefit patients with diabetes*

**Mumbai, April 29, 2008:** Aventis Pharma Limited ( Group sanofi-aventis) today launched a new prefilled disposable insulin pen, SoloSTAR® for use with the 24-hour insulin LANTUS®. This disposable insulin pen is to be used for the treatment of hyperglycemia in people with type 1 or type 2 diabetes and will be available in India starting April 2008.

Dr. Shailesh Ayyangar, Managing Director said, “Innovation and customer convenience is at the helm of the Research & Development initiative at sanofi-aventis. SoloSTAR® is another step in this direction and we are very optimistic about the benefits that this will offer to the patients.”

“LANTUS® SoloSTAR® is the result of over four years of intensive research and development. This pen has been designed based on inputs from diabetic patients, their nurses and doctors. Thus we are confident that this will cater to the needs of the patients”, he added.

“SoloSTAR®, an easy-to-use insulin pen brings greater flexibility to patients and an opportunity for earlier initiation of insulin therapy which may contribute to better glycaemic control. This pen is designed in a very convenient manner to enable patients carry it easily, especially while travelling”, added Mr. Susheel Umesh, Senior Director - Cardio-Metabolism Business Unit.

SoloSTAR® is a new, easy-to-use disposable pen for administration of LANTUS®. SoloSTAR® reduces the injection force by 30% or more in comparison to other leading disposable pens. This is beneficial to diabetics and in particular for those with lower grip strength and an estimated upto 58% of individuals with limited joint mobility of the hand. SoloSTAR® has the highest dose range of any disposable insulin pen with doses up to 80 units adjustable in 1 unit steps. SoloSTAR® meets the applicable standards specified by ISO (International Standards Organization) including the standards for dose accuracy.

Sanofi-aventis, the developer, manufacturer and marketer of LANTUS® SoloSTAR® is currently building significant manufacturing capability to support worldwide launches. SoloSTAR® will be now available for use with LANTUS®, the only once-daily 24- hour basal insulin analog in India. LANTUS® SoloSTAR® was first launched in Germany.

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## **About Diabetes**

Diabetes is a chronic, widespread condition in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin – the hormone needed to convert glucose (sugar) into energy. More than 230 million people worldwide live with this disease. This number is expected to rise to a staggering 350 million within 20 years<sup>1</sup>. With around 41 million diabetics, India is these days referred to as the ‘diabetes capital’ of the world. This number is likely to move up to almost 70 million diabetics in India by 2025<sup>2</sup>. This would mean that one diabetic out of 5 on this planet would be an Indian. Of the 41 million diabetics that we have in India only 36% i.e. 14.8 million are diagnosed. More than half of those who are detected do not achieve blood glucose control standard of A1C < 7% as recommended by the American Diabetes Association<sup>3</sup>. The A1C test is an acceptable gold standard that would measure glycemic control over a three month period.

### **About Sanofi-aventis’ pen portfolio**

Sanofi-aventis is committed to offering people with diabetes an integrated system of insulin products and delivery devices. The pen portfolio available for LANTUS® includes the OptiSet® disposable pen and the Autopen® 24 from Owen Mumford.

### **About LANTUS® (insulin glargine [rDNA origin])**

LANTUS® is indicated for once-daily subcutaneous administration in the treatment of adult patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who require basal (long-acting) insulin for the control of hyperglycemia and for adult and pediatric patients (6 years of age and older) with type 1 diabetes mellitus. LANTUS® demonstrates a consistent slow, prolonged absorption and a relatively constant concentration/time profile over 24 hours.

### **About sanofi-aventis**

Sanofi-aventis, a leading global pharmaceutical Company, discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions to improve the lives of everyone. Sanofi-aventis is listed in Paris (EURONEXT : SAN) and in New York (NYSE : SNY).

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control. National Diabetes Fact Sheet 2005.

Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/ndfs\\_2005.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/ndfs_2005.pdf). Accessed on November 28, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> IDF. Diabetes Atlas 3rd Edition - 2006

<sup>3</sup> Resnick HE. Achievement of American Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Recommendations Among U.S. Adults With Diabetes, 1999–2002. *Diabetes Care*. 2006 Mar 29;531–537.