

## **Bionest Partners appoints senior consultant in corporate finance and strategic consulting**

### **Mark Larkin joins from Alcimed to strengthen Bionest's investment banking and consulting activities**

**Paris, March 17, 2004** - Bionest Partners, a provider of advisory and management services to life science companies, announces today the appointment of Mark Larkin as senior consultant with special responsibilities for corporate finance and strategic consulting.

Larkin, 30, joins Bionest from Alcimed, a consultancy providing decision-making assistance to the life sciences industries. His previous experience includes three years with Crédit Suisse First Boston in London as a financial analyst specializing in European life science markets, and responsibilities as scientific chargé de mission at the British Embassy in Paris, where he handled partnering discussions for companies such as GlaxoSmithKline, Acambis, Ethypharm and Transgene.

Larkin has a PhD in cognitive psychology and a BA in natural sciences (biological) from Cambridge University. He has British nationality.

Bionest has built up an accomplished and experienced team offering its clients expertise in pharmaceuticals and specialty pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and related start up company activities, and medical devices. Larkin will provide considerably increased firepower for Bionest in management consulting, corporate finance and entry into Europe for companies wishing to extend their international markets. Corporate finance activities include private placements and IPO support as well as mergers and acquisitions. The most high profile of its M&A-related activities has been its analysis of a potential Sanofi-Aventis merger by co-founders Alain J Gilbert and Claude Allary (downloadable from the Bionest website <http://www.bionest.com>).

"Claude and I are delighted at Mark's decision to join the growing team at Bionest as he has the ideal education, experience and background to build still further the quality and value of our services," said Gilbert. "We are confident his arrival will help us rapidly grow our portfolio of clients in the corporate finance, fund-raising, merchant banking and merger and acquisition fields as well as in strategic consulting."

"Bionest has carved out for itself an excellent reputation in advisory and management services to life science companies in record time," said Larkin. "It  
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will provide an excellent environment for me to use my knowledge experience and commitment and I look forward to making a significant contribution to its success.”

For more information on Bionest Partners: <http://www.bionest.com>