



## GENENTECH AGAIN

Genentech ([DNA - news](#)) signed a deal with a nonprofit foundation in Burlingame to study the use **Avastin** as a treatment for brain cancer. The foundation, Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure, was established in 2001 by Dan Case, the JPMorgan H&Q CEO and chairman, who died of brain cancer in 2002. Genentech will share development costs during the first stage of testing. If initial trials are successful, the foundation will help Genentech find patients for later trials through a network of four health centers.

Genentech has become a factory that brings good things to life. Yesterday it was the good news about saving lives and stopping metastasis in one of the worst breast cancers, and the drug was Genentech's Herceptin. Genentech is the developer or co-developer of the best biological treatments for cancer, **Avastin, Rituxan, Herceptin and Tarceva**. These drugs have totally and completely changed the way oncology is practiced in several cancers, from **lymphoma, to breast, lung, colon and now brain cancer**.

Genentech is born to be a star of optimism, that meant to bring back the missing smiles in cancer patients' homes. For the investing community we say, it is difficult to predict the growth of these products, as they are moving towards treating many diseases in addition to the initially FDA approved indications. **Rituxan**, which is co-developed with **Biogen Idec** ([BIIB - news](#)) is being used in inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, in addition to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. **Herceptin** is moving to the front line in *her2neu* breast cancer and probably to other cancers that might express the same marker. Now, we are watching **Avastin** being used in many cancers alone and in combination treatments, the latest is about the brain cancer. **Tarceva**, which is co-developed with **Osi Pharmaceuticals** ([OSIP - news](#)) is on its way to approval for **prostate cancer**, in addition to **lung cancer**, which was the first approved indication.

We don't really fathom how could any observer reach the conclusion that the firm as fully valued without even knowing what would happen next day in this firm's labs? The company has so many marketed self-expanding breakthroughs with news announced almost every day about new markets, new drugs, new indications and unprecedented growth. It is hard, extremely hard to follow up on this firm's news, let alone rush into assessing and predicting its tomorrow's shape, size and value.

All we can do at this moment is to congratulate the king for the excellent job, the excellent taste, the excellent strategy and the excellent business orientation. Thanks Genentech.



**MEDIMMUNE (MEDI)**: Interesting quarterly report. **MediImmune (MEDI - news)**, had lower losses, but did not meet analysts' expectations. Its positive momentum, though, seems to be gaining investors' enthusiasm, especially that, which comes from expectations of large flu vaccine sales, Synagis increasing sales growth and its promising pipeline. **Read more:** [MedImmune Reports Narrower Q3 Net Loss, Reconfirms FY05 EPS Guidance - Update](#)

**GTC BIOTHERAPEUTICS (GTCB-news)**: The firm filed a universal shelf registration statement on Form S-3 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) pursuant to which the Company may issue up to an aggregate of \$50 million of common stock, debt securities, and other types of securities. Proceeds from any offering under the shelf registration statement would provide flexibility in financing GTC's business needs, including funding for development and commercialization of its products and clinical programs as well as for general corporate purposes. The terms and price of any future offerings would be established at the time of the offering.

GTC web site, <http://www.gtc-bio.com>.

**PEREGRINE PHARMACEUTICALS (PPHM - News · Profile)**: The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center has initiated patient enrollment in an ongoing Phase I clinical trial of Tarvacin™ Anti-Cancer, the fourth clinical trial site. The purpose of the trial is to assess the safety and tolerability and study the pharmacokinetics of **Tarvacin** in patients with **advanced solid malignancies** who have failed to respond to available treatments.



*Tarvacin is a monoclonal antibody that binds specifically to phospholipids, a basic component of the cell structure that is exposed only on the surface of tumor blood vessel cells and is not present on normal cells. Once bound to the tumor blood vessels, the drug alerts the body's immune system to attack the tumor and its blood supply, while minimizing effects on non-targeted healthy cells. The Phase I trial is already underway at two cancer centers in Arizona and one in California.*

**M.D. Anderson** is one of the world's most prestigious cancer centers. The firm expects that the center's participation in this clinical trial will help expedite the study.

**Read more:** [Peregrine Pharmaceuticals Announces Additional Tarvacin\(TM\) Clinical Trial Site at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center](#)

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