

**Headlines** Advinus has achieved the first milestone in a drug discovery collaboration with Merck

**Date** November 11 2007

**Description**

Advinus Therapeutics has achieved the first milestone in a drug discovery and clinical development collaboration with Merck & Co Inc that focuses on two target programs for metabolic disorders.

The companies have been working together since November 2006 to develop clinically validated drug candidates, with Merck retaining the right to advance the most promising of these candidates into late-stage clinical trials.

"This milestone was achieved three months ahead of schedule, largely due to the exceptional working relationship between the two partners," said Dr. Rashmi Barbhaiya, CEO of Advinus. "The achievement validates the company's business model and is a testimony that novel drug discovery is the wave of the future for India."

"Metabolic disorders continue to be an important focus for Merck," said Dr. Samuel Wright, Vice President Worldwide Cardiovascular Basic Research, Merck Research Laboratories. "The achievement of this milestone provides strong validation of our decision to collaborate with Advinus, one of India's leading drug discovery/development companies."