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Pursuant to Rule 135 and Rule 425(a)
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as amended, and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b)(2) of the
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ON JANUARY 29, 2004, THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT WAS PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF SANOFI-SYNTHELABO IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL EUROPEAN EDITION.

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WE REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT THERE ISN'T A FASTER WAY TO FIND A MEDICINE FOR TOMMY'S DISEASE.

[Image of child in hospital bed]

Who is going to tell Tommy that the medicine that could cure him won't be ready for 20 years? You? No.

No one. Joining forces with Aventis will represent a giant step forward for research. We will be able to provide patients with new drugs and innovative solutions faster. Together, we will harness our complementary skills to create a leading pharmaceutical group (No.1 in Europe and No.3 worldwide) committed to improving healthcare and capable of driving strong, sustainable and profitable growth.

SANOFI-SYNTHELABO'S OFFER TO AVENTIS'S SHAREHOLDERS
BECAUSE HEALTH MATTERS

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to sell or an offer to purchase any securities

www.sanofi-synthelabo.com