



Media Release

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## **Sandoz Names Christine Mundkur CEO Of US Generics Operations**

*15-year industry veteran with broad generics experience to assume top US Sandoz position*

**Princeton, New Jersey, January 5, 2009** – Sandoz announced today that Christine Mundkur will assume the position of CEO of the company's US generics operations and Head of Commercial Operations for North America, including Canada, naming one of the industry's most experienced executives to the top US position.

Mundkur most recently served as Chief Executive Officer of Barr Laboratories, the USD 2 billion generic subsidiary of Barr Pharmaceuticals. She was previously Executive Vice President of Global Quality, Safety and Regulatory Affairs. Mundkur joined Barr 1993 as Associate Counsel, moving on to positions of increasing responsibility in legal, regulatory affairs and quality before assuming the top position in Barr Laboratories. She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Saint Louis University and a J.D. from Saint Louis University School of Law.

Jeff George, the global CEO of Sandoz commented, "Christine Mundkur's strategic insights and proven operational track record in the generics business as well as her extensive experience in regulatory affairs, legal, and quality make her an ideal choice to lead our US activities. We are very much looking forward to her joining our leadership team."

A world leader in generic pharmaceuticals, Sandoz ranks No. 2 worldwide and in the US market. Sandoz has a broad product portfolio and is a pioneer in "difficult-to-make" generics, such as biosimilars and injectables, which provide a competitive advantage through greater differentiation. More than 27% of net sales at Sandoz come from these higher-value products. Sandoz also leads in the development of novel cost-saving biosimilars (generic versions of approved biotechnology drugs), with two products on the market and a broad pipeline with 25 projects.

In the US, Sandoz employs 1,300 associates and is headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey. The US products of Sandoz span all therapeutic classes, with key technologies including extended release oral solids, injectables and patches. The company also markets Omnitrope<sup>®</sup>, a growth hormone that was the first US-approved biosimilar.

**Disclaimer**

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements that can be identified by terminology such as “will”, “looking forward”, or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential regarding potential future revenues from Sandoz North America. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of the Company regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that Sandoz North America will achieve any particular levels of revenue in the future. In particular, management’s expectations regarding Sandoz performance could be affected by, among other things, unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; unexpected patent litigation outcomes; unexpected inability to obtain or maintain exclusivity periods for our products; competition in general; government, industry and general public pricing pressures; the impact that the foregoing factors could have on the values attributed to the Novartis Group’s assets and liabilities as recorded in the Group’s consolidated balance sheet, and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG’s current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**About Sandoz**

Sandoz, a division of the Novartis group, is a global leader in the field of generic pharmaceuticals, offering a wide array of high-quality, affordable products that are no longer protected by patents. Sandoz has a portfolio of more than 950 compounds and sells its products in more than 130 countries. Key product groups include antibiotics, treatments for central nervous system disorders, gastrointestinal medicines, cardiovascular treatments and hormone therapies. Sandoz develops, produces and markets these medicines along with pharmaceutical and biotechnological active substances and anti-infectives. In addition to strong organic growth in recent years, Sandoz has made a series of acquisitions including Lek (Slovenia), Sabex (Canada), Hexal (Germany) and Eon Labs (US). In 2007, Sandoz employed around 23,000 people worldwide and posted sales of USD 7.2 billion.

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