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Archemix Announces Milestone Achievement with Candidate Selection by

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[Archemix Announces Milestone Achievement with Candidate Selection by Eyetech as Part of Broad Collaboration to Discover and Develop Therapeutic Aptamers for Ophthalmology](#)

Collaboration focused on providing a broad pipeline of compounds to treat diseases of the eye

CAMBRIDGE, MA – June 22, 2005 – **Archemix Corp.** announced today that Eyetech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has formally selected and nominated its first pre-clinical candidate pursuant to the parties' collaboration agreement, which was signed in 2004.

The pre-clinical candidate selected by Eyetech is an aptamer directed against the target Platelet Derived Growth Factor-B (PDGF-B) for potential use in neovascular age-related macular degeneration (neovascular AMD). In addition to uses as a single agent, pre-clinical studies have also demonstrated that aptamers directed against PDGF-B may provide additional benefit when used in combination with Macugen® (pegaptanib sodium injection) for neovascular AMD. In conjunction with this milestone, Archemix received an undisclosed payment from Eyetech.

"Eyetech is pleased to announce that a candidate has been selected," stated Dr. David Guyer, Chief Executive Officer of Eyetech Pharmaceuticals. "The speed with which we were able to select this candidate is indicative of the quality of our collaboration and the science behind it. We view this selection as an important step in building and deepening our product pipeline. The use of combination therapy may represent the future direction of ophthalmic treatment, and the opportunity to test an anti-PDGF aptamer with Macugen places us on the cutting edge of this potential new paradigm of treatment."

"For Archemix, this candidate milestone demonstrates the value of our expertise in therapeutic aptamers and our commitment to this collaboration," stated Dr. Errol De Souza, President and Chief Executive Officer of Archemix. "The selection of a development candidate in less than one year after the agreement was signed shows that our proprietary selection methods and know-how translate into rapid discovery of high quality drug candidates. We look forward to Eyetech using their extensive expertise to develop this and other candidates that come out of this collaboration."

Eyetech's compound Macugen is being marketed with Pfizer Inc for the treatment of all types of the

neovascular AMD, the leading cause of irreversible vision loss in developed countries in people over 60 years of age. In addition, Eyetech and Pfizer are conducting a Phase 2 clinical trial for the use of Macugen for the treatment of diabetic macular edema (DME), a leading cause of blindness in younger people. Macugen is also being studied for other indications including retinal vein occlusion.

Aptamers are single-stranded nucleic acids that form well-defined three-dimensional shapes, binding target molecules in a manner conceptually similar to antibodies. Aptamers have a number of desirable characteristics for use as therapeutics, including clinically demonstrated biological efficacy, high specificity and affinity, and excellent pharmacokinetic properties.

About Archemix Corp.

Archemix Corp. is a privately held biopharmaceutical company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The company's mission is to develop aptamers as a class of directed therapeutics for the treatment of human disease. Because of their unique properties and proven efficacy, aptamers are a superior alternative to biologics and small molecules and will be a major class of drugs for the treatment of unmet medical needs.

Archemix's aptamer expertise is complemented by a dominant patent estate comprised of over 220 issued and 230 pending patents covering the identification, composition and use of therapeutic aptamers. In addition to the company's core aptamer generation technology, Archemix possesses strong expertise in both pre-clinical and clinical drug development. Further information about Archemix can be found at <http://www.archemix.com>.

For further information or to speak with Dr. Errol De Souza, please contact Davia Temin of Temin and Company at 212-588-8788, or news@teminandco.com.

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Via PR Newswire - PRNewswire.co.uk

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Send comments and feedback to:

Peter Barfoot Managing Director, BioPortfolio Ltd.

UK Tel: (+44) 1300 321501

USA Voicemail and Fax: (+1) 415 680 2472

[Peter Barfoot peter.barfoot@bioportfolio.com](mailto:peter.barfoot@bioportfolio.com)

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