



PRESS RELEASE  
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**Avesthagen and Manipal Acunova announce collaboration in drug discovery, pre-clinical, clinical research including regulatory matters**

**Bangalore, May 03,07-**Avesthagen have signed a memorandum of understanding with Manipal Acunova Limited.

Avesthagen is India's leading fully integrated systems biology company that works towards the convergence of food, pharma and population genetics leading to predictive preventive personalized healthcare.

Manipal Acunova, on the other hand is a collaborative venture between the Manipal Education and Medical Group International India Private Ltd., and AcuNova Life Sciences Inc. Manipal Acunova can provide medical, clinical and project management capacities in clinical trials, lab management, data management and biostatistical services.

Avesthagen and Manipal Acunova have agreed to collaborate on providing their competencies in discovery, pre-clinical, clinical research including regulatory matters. This partnership will enable them to jointly provide a fully integrated platform from early discovery to filing approvals for new products. In highly competitive and regulated industries like food and healthcare where time and accuracy are the essence, such an integrated offering will enable companies to screen candidates and move the promising ones to the market faster.



Avesthagen and Manipal Acunova will also collaborate in validation of Molecular Diagnostics kits and Product Co-development for delivering high quality, affordable and advanced diagnostic tests using molecular techniques to patients and healthcare industry.

They will jointly apply and own the Intellectual Property rights to the database or samples or process or products that are created during the agreement.

Dr Villoo Morawalla Patell, Founder and Managing Director said “this is a step that Avesthagen and Manipal Acunova have taken as we both agree to provide better and efficient service to our clients as well as patients and the healthcare industry as a whole”.

“The collaboration will bring in a range of services to the clients expanding to biogenerics, bionutraceuticals and biopharma companies” said Mr.D.A.Prasanna founder and Vice Chairman of Manipal Acunova Ltd.

### **About Avesthagen:**

Avesthagen was founded by one of India’s pioneers and leading biotech entrepreneurs Dr. Villoo Morawala-Patell, who got her Ph.D from Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France, in 1993. It began business operations officially in 2001.

Since its inception Avesthagen has grown into one of India's leading healthcare technology group in India, and its activities include, in addition to its agri-biotechnologies product pipeline, development of clinically validated botanical bioactives, derived from Indian medicinal plants, as well as the development of a pipeline of bio-similar drugs. Avesthagen has four strategic business units: bioPharmaceuticals, bioNutrition, bioAgriculture



and Science Innovation. Avesthagen's partners include multiple top 10 global companies in each of its fields of research.

Avesthagen collaborates at every stage in the value chain with appropriate partners, both public and private, for access to and exchange of technology and overall commercial expertise to leverage the 'India advantage'. Avesthagen employs 290 people worldwide. For Avesthagen on the web: [www.avesthagen.com](http://www.avesthagen.com)

### **About Manipal Acunova**

Manipal AcuNova Ltd is a single source provider of clinical research Bio Availability and Bio Equivalence, Phase I – IV clinical trials, Clinical Data Management and the Central Lab. Manipal AcuNova has access to the India's largest Integrated Hospital Network that caters to over 1.5 million patients annually. Manipal AcuNova has the distinction of being selected as the CRO by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India for its funded studies and by Indian & Global Pharma companies.

Manipal Acunova has been awarded as "India's No 1 emerging CRO in 2005 by Proximare Inc". (A New Jersey based strategic consulting firm).

Manipal AcuNova was awarded "the Partner of Choice for Bioavailability & Bioequivalence studies" by Frost & Sullivan for the year 2007. For Manipal Acunova on the web: [www.acunovalife.com](http://www.acunovalife.com)

### **For Further Information:**

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