



## **“India’s vast polio achievement is a call for action for all of us” says Shantha CEO**

**Hyderabad – February 11, 2014** – The CEO of one of India’s pioneering biotech companies says that India reaching three years without any case of polio is “a massive achievement which will inspire us and should galvanise all stakeholders in public health community.” Dr. Harish Iyer, the CEO of Shantha Biotechnics congratulated the Government of India and the “hundreds of thousands of dedicated leaders and field workers who have made this possible.”

Iyer’s statement followed a letter earlier today from Sanofi Pasteur CEO Olivier Charmeil to Rotary International. “This is a once in a generation opportunity -- maybe once in a lifetime,” Charmeil wrote to fellow global business leaders. “*It is now up to all of us to collectively build on India’s vast achievement. None of us would dare tell our grandchildren that we allowed polio to escape after it had been cornered and almost eliminated,*” wrote Charmeil.

He further congratulated both India and the members of the community service organization on their role in supporting the Indian government’s “*monumental achievement in making India polio free.*” The World Health Organization has described Rotary’s role as inspirational. Charmeil said that business leaders had joined international organizations such as UNICEF and WHO in backing India’s commitment to become polio free. “*I think your example shows us what multidisciplinary, public-private partnerships can achieve,*” he wrote. “*I am proud that we have been a long term partner of Rotary International.*”

Shantha was the first partner of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in protecting Indians against hepatitis B. Today, Shantha also produces vaccines to protect children from many other dangerous infections and is benefitting from Sanofi Pasteur experience on polio. Globally, Sanofi Pasteur provides more injectable and oral polio vaccines than any other company in the world, and has developed the technologies and production capacities which make inactivated polio vaccines affordable. These IPV (Inactivated Polio Vaccine) vaccines are an essential part of the future path to a polio-free world. “Our goal is to deliver massive quantities of high-quality, safe and efficacious vaccines in line with aggressive timelines of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative’s Endgame strategy,” wrote Charmeil. Shantha is now preparing the vaccines of the future to support polio eradication in India, with an IPV injection to be introduced “in the mid term” and a vaccine which combines IPV with protection against five other childhood killers which is to be introduced in the longer term, according to Dr. Harish Iyer.



President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee celebrated today three years without a case of polio in India, in the presence of World Health Organization Director General, Margaret Chan, at an event in New Delhi attended by the Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh and by other dignitaries. The last case of polio in India was reported in the state of West Bengal on the 13th of January, 2011.

## Background

India was the biggest of four remaining polio endemic countries and, many thought, was going to prove the biggest challenge in the effort to eradicate polio globally. The polio virus found in nature is still frequently transmitted from person to person in some areas of three countries. There are occasional outbreaks in other countries but they are all linked back to transmission from one of these three countries. There are also occasional cases of transmission of polio-like illness linked to the oral polio vaccine still used in many lower-income countries. In the current transition phase, OPV remains the best way to maintain control of the disease in countries such as India, through massive vaccination campaigns. However, because this vaccine contains a very weakened form of the live polio virus, a global plan calls for it to be progressively replaced with inactivated, injectable vaccine as the world moves into the final stages of polio eradication and plans for a future in which the polio virus is completely absent.

Early in 2013, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE) recommended that every country introduce at least one dose of injectable inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in routine polio immunization programs by end 2015, as part of the “Polio Endgame Strategic Plan”.

Sanofi Pasteur, as a leader in providing both OPV and IPV, has been a longstanding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and WHO for over 20 years. In 2013, Sanofi Pasteur announced its commitment to provide 1.7 billion doses of OPV through 2017 to support the GPEI’s polio vaccination program. In 1982, Sanofi Pasteur registered the first enhanced-potency inactivated polio vaccine, which is now distributed globally as a stand-alone poliovirus vaccine as well as in combination pediatric vaccines to immunize against many diseases in a single shot. Since then, Sanofi Pasteur has provided more than 800 million doses of IPV and IPV-containing vaccines.

Sanofi Pasteur is the parent of India’s Shantha Biotechnics, a Hyderabad-based vaccine company and remains committed to partner with the Government of India in order to secure the country’s polio-free status.

## About Polio

According to the WHO, Polio (poliomyelitis) mainly affects children under five years of age. One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis. Among those paralyzed, five to 10 percent die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.

Polio cases have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350 000 cases then, to 223 reported cases in 2012. The reduction is the result of the global effort to eradicate the disease. In 2013, only three countries (Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan) remain polio-endemic, down from more than 125 in 1988. As long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of contracting polio. Failure to eradicate polio from these last remaining strongholds could result in as many as 200 000 new cases every year, within 10 years, all over the world. In most countries, the global effort has expanded capacities to tackle other infectious diseases by building effective surveillance and immunization systems.



## About Sanofi

Sanofi, an integrated global healthcare leader, discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions focused on patients' needs. Sanofi has core strengths in the field of healthcare with seven growth platforms: diabetes solutions, human vaccines, innovative drugs, consumer healthcare, emerging markets, animal health and the new Genzyme. Sanofi is listed in Paris (EURONEXT: SAN) and in New York (NYSE: SNY).

Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of Sanofi, provides more than 1 billion doses of vaccine each year, making it possible to immunize more than 500 million people across the globe. A world leader in the vaccine industry, Sanofi Pasteur offers the broadest range of vaccines protecting against 20 infectious diseases. The company's heritage, to create vaccines that protect life, dates back more than a century. Sanofi Pasteur is the largest company entirely dedicated to vaccines. Every day, the company invests more than EUR 1 million in research and development. For more information, please visit: [www.sanofipasteur.com](http://www.sanofipasteur.com) or [www.sanofipasteur.us](http://www.sanofipasteur.us)

## Forward Looking Statements

*This press release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. These statements include projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives, intentions and expectations with respect to future financial results, events, operations, services, product development and potential, and statements regarding future performance. Forward-looking statements are generally identified by the words "expects", "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "plans" and similar expressions. Although Sanofi's management believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, investors are cautioned that forward-looking information and statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of Sanofi, that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. These risks and uncertainties include among other things, the uncertainties inherent in research and development, future clinical data and analysis, including post marketing, decisions by regulatory authorities, such as the FDA or the EMA, regarding whether and when to approve any drug, device or biological application that may be filed for any such product candidates as well as their decisions regarding labelling and other matters that could affect the availability or commercial potential of such product candidates, the absence of guarantee that the product candidates if approved will be commercially successful, the future approval and commercial success of therapeutic alternatives, the Group's ability to benefit from external growth opportunities, trends in exchange rates and prevailing interest rates, the impact of cost containment policies and subsequent changes thereto, the average number of shares outstanding as well as those discussed or identified in the public filings with the SEC and the AMF made by Sanofi, including those listed under "Risk Factors" and "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in Sanofi's annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2012. Other than as required by applicable law, Sanofi does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information or statements.*

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