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Press Release

For immediate publication

UCB CONFIRMS ANNUAL ZYRTEC SALES IN THE US XYZAL SELLS MORE THAN ZYRTEC IN EUROPE

Brussels, 19 January 2005 - Following Pfizer's quarterly earnings release, UCB confirms that Zyrtec strengthened its leadership position as the number one most prescribed branded antihistamine in the US in new prescriptions. The US sales of Zyrtec have reached \$ 1,287 million over the 12 months ending December 31st, 2004 and \$ 349 million for the fourth quarter. This is an anticipated decline of 3% for the 4th quarter of 2004 and of 4% for the whole year against the same period in 2003.

In Europe, UCB's total allergy franchise increased by 5% in 2004 thanks to the continued growth of Xyzal, which was launched in 2001. Xyzal now sells more than Zyrtec in Europe and the recent approval of Xyzal in Persistent Allergic Rhinitis (PER), the first and only medication approved for this indication should fuel continuous growth. Xyzal IMS¹ market share in value reached 21.4% in France and 21.1% in Germany, in November 2004, Xyzal's largest markets in Europe.

About the UCB Group

UCB (www.ucb-group.com) is a global pharmaceutical and specialty chemical leader with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Through its Pharma division, the company is focused on innovative solutions for human healthcare. UCB Pharma is a global biopharma player, specialising in the fields of central nervous system disorders, allergy and respiratory disease, immune and inflammatory disorders and oncology. UCB Pharma's key products are Keppra® (antiepileptic), Xyzal® and Zyrtec® (antiallergics), Nootropil® (cerebral function regulator), and Tussionex® (antitussive). UCB Pharma employs over 8,000 people operating in over 100 countries and in 2003 achieved sales of €1.5 billion. UCB is listed on Euronext Brussels and achieved sales of €3 billion and a net profit of €340 million in 2003.

On October 1st, 2004, UCB announced the sale of its Surface Specialties business to enable the Company to focus on its biopharmaceutical activities.

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¹ IMS, Total R6A Antihistamines market in €(Nov.2004)