Phillip A. Sharp to Retire from Biogen Idec Board

July 16, 2009

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Biogen Idec (NASDAQ: BIIB) today announced that Phillip A. Sharp, Ph.D., is retiring from the Company's Board of Directors. Dr. Sharp, a Nobel Laureate, co-founded the company in 1978 and has served as a director since 1982.

"Dr. Sharp has been a pioneering force in this Company and this industry for more than three decades, contributing enormously to both our scientific and business achievements," said Bruce R. Ross, Chairman of the Board of Biogen Idec. "His work in the laboratory has led to major medical advances, and his business judgment in the boardroom has helped foster the growth of one of the world's most successful biotechnology companies. We are grateful for all he has contributed to Biogen Idec, and wish him the best in his future endeavors."

Dr. Sharp, 65, is Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a faculty member in the Department of Biology and the Center for Cancer Research. He served as Director in the Center for Cancer Research from 1985 to 1991, as Head of the Department of Biology from 1991 to 1999, and more recently as Director of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research from 2000 to 2004 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Sharp was awarded a Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1993 and was a National Medal of Science recipient in 2006.

About Biogen Idec

Biogen Idec creates new standards of care in therapeutic areas with high unmet medical needs. Biogen Idec is a global leader in the discovery, development, manufacturing, and commercialization of innovative therapies. Patients in more than 90 countries benefit from Biogen Idec's significant products that address diseases such as lymphoma, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis. For product labeling, press releases and additional information about the company, please visit www.biogenidec.com.

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