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Press Release

UCB CONFIRMS THIRD QUARTER ZYRTEC SALES IN THE US 6% Increase in European Allergy Franchise

Brussels, 20 October 2004 - 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 \$ 938 million over the 9 months ending September 30th, 2004. This anticipated decrease of 4% against the same period in 2003 compares to a decreasing market of 16% (New prescriptions YTD).

In Europe, UCB's total allergy franchise increased by 6% for the same period thanks to the continued growth of Xyzal, which was launched in 2001.

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 biopharmaceutical 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, representing 4,500 people, to enable the Company to focus on its biopharmaceutical activities.

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