

Nantes, April 20, 2011

## **Dr. Françoise Le Vacon will be made a Knight in France's National Order Of Merit on May 4, 2011 in Nantes**

Alain Mérieux, President of the Institut Mérieux will deliver the insignia of Knight in France's National Order of Merit to Dr. Françoise Le Vacon, Head of Biofortis Research, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Research.

The reception will be held at the CCI of Nantes on Wednesday May 4, 2011 at 11:30.

Dr. Le Vacon will receive the award in recognition of her strong commitment to research and science in a distinguished career spanning more than 20 years. Her contributions include the development of molecular oncogenes tests for breast tumor detection, participation in an immunology project which enabled the automated monitoring of AIDS patients, and involvement in non-Hodgkin's malignant markers research study at Grenoble CTS.

Dr. Le Vacon possesses an extensive background in the genetic sequencing and phenotyping of microorganisms and has authored or co-authored several peer-reviewed publications. A graduate of Nantes University with a PhD in Cell Biology, she founded Atlangene Applications, a company dedicated to the identification of animal species in foods through innovative molecular technologies, in 1996.

The Atlangene laboratory is now part of Biofortis, the innovation center for nutrition within the Mérieux NutriSciences Corporation. As part of its activities, the Contract Research Organization specializes in the identification and characterization of probiotics and their effects on intestinal flora.

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