

Steven Kelmar appointed Head of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications at Novartis

Basel, 5 February 2003 – Novartis today announced the appointment of Steven Kelmar to Head of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications, a newly created position that will align the two functions more closely and strengthen Novartis' global capabilities in this field. Mr Kelmar, an American aged 49, joins Novartis from Medtronic Corporation, where he was Senior Vice President, External Relations. Before moving to Medtronic in 1994, he spent many years in Washington DC, serving as Assistant Secretary at the US Department of Health and Human Services and working on Capitol Hill in various capacities for several members of Congress.

Novartis AG (NYSE: NVS) is a world leader in pharmaceuticals and consumer health. In 2002, the Group's businesses achieved sales of CHF 32.4 billion (USD 20.9 billion) and a net income of CHF 7.3 billion (USD 4.7 billion). The Group invested approximately CHF 4.3 billion (USD 2.8 billion) in R&D. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ about 72 900 people and operate in over 140 countries around the world. For further information please consult <http://www.novartis.com>.

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