

**Credit Suisse**

Bruno Bischoff, Public Policy - Sustainability Affairs  
John Tobin, Head Public Policy - Sustainability Affairs  
Joachim Oechslin - Chief Risk Officer  
Bleicherweg 33  
8070 Zurich  
Switzerland

open letter

**München 27 April 2015**

Dear Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Tobin, Mr. Oechslin,

Invitation to a conference in Berlin on patents on life, genetic engineering and animal welfare

First of all, please let me introduce our organisation. Testbiotech was founded to monitor trends and assess risks in modern biotechnology. We promote diverse, critical and informed discussions on genetic engineering and biotechnology. The expertise we provide is independent of industry and is aimed at promoting informed public discussion and choice. (For more information please see [www.testbiotech.org](http://www.testbiotech.org)).

On 17 June 2015, we are holding a conference on “The Patented Ape: New methods in genetic engineering, patents on life and the protection of humans and animals“, in Berlin, Germany. As ethical investment policies are on the agenda, we would very much like to invite you to attend this conference. For details please see the programme attached.

One of our main topics at the conference will be patents on animals used in experimental research. We are concerned that the European Patent Office in Munich has already granted around 1500 patents on animals used in biotechnology. Some of them even claim chimpanzees:

- EP1409646 held by Altor BioScience, USA, claims chimpanzees with a genetically engineered immune system;
- EP1364025 held by Bionomics, Australia, claims chimpanzees with a manipulated genome making them more likely to suffer from cancer, and EP 1852505 also held by Bionomics, Australia claims chimpanzees genetically engineered to suffer from epilepsy;

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Testbiotech e. V.  
Institut für unabhängige  
Folgenabschätzung in  
der Biotechnologie

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**Steuernummer:**  
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**Sitz des Vereins:**  
München

**Vereinsregister:**  
Amtsgericht München  
VR 202119  
Als gemeinnützig  
anerkannt

- EP 1456346 and EP 1572862 held by Intrexon, USA, both claim chimpanzees genetically engineered with synthetic DNA originating from insects.

Other companies heavily engaging in filing patents on genetically engineered animals include Novartis, Hofmann La Roche and Pfizer. As you can see from our programme, we will be presenting a report on the investors active in this field, including your own banking institute.

Our research has shown that the Credit Suisse is amongst those financial institutions that have to carry a share of the responsibility for what happens in this field. Credit Suisse has particular affiliations with three major pharmaceutical companies (Novartis, Pfizer, La Roche), which hold many patents on animals. Not only does Credit Suisse hold shares worth many billions of USD in these companies, it also provides them with financial services. Further, the bank has appointed the CEO of the La Roche Group, Mr Severin Schwan, to its Board of Directors. This means that the La Roche group will have a substantial influence on the bank's financial strategies. For more details please see below.

We strongly believe that animals are our fellow creatures and, as such, they should be treated with the respect they deserve. Allowing patents on animals means that incentives are provided to conduct animal experiments for commercial reasons. Nobody should be investing to make a profit from animal suffering. And, more generally, animals should not be treated as if they were technical inventions. For this reason patents on animals, especially those claiming mammals or even great apes, should neither be filed by companies nor granted by patent offices.

Since you are one of the investors in this field we would very much welcome your participation at our conference. We are convinced that your bank is ready to play a constructive role in this dialog, helping to find constructive answers to the problems as outlined. Since we are very much aware of the rapid innovation and new applications in this field, we feel that it is vital to maintain and uphold high ethical standards in this field of investment. Please give us your point of view and take part in our discussions. We would also very much appreciate your comments on the findings from our research. If possible, please let us know your comments and notification of attendance at the conference till 1 June 2015. We look forward to your response.

With kind regards



Dr. Christoph Then, Executive Director, Testbiotech

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Annex:

## **Overview of affiliations between Credit Suisse and some relevant pharmaceutical companies**

- **Novartis**

Credit Suisse is the 6th-largest shareholder of Novartis, owning shares worth USD 3,12 billion (1,24 %) in 2014. Credit Suisse Securities, part of Credit Suisse, was part of a 2012 banking syndicate issuing Novartis bonds, underwriting USD 80 million (out of a total of USD 2 billion), and was also part of a 2014 banking syndicate issuing Novartis bonds, underwriting USD 320 million (out of a total of USD 4 billion).

- **Pfizer**

In 2013, Credit Suisse participated in a 20-bank syndicate securing a revolving credit facility for Pfizer worth USD 7 billion, with Credit Suisse committing USD 591 million. In 2013, in a bond issuing syndicate worth USD 4 billion, Credit Suisse undersigned USD 670 million. In a 2014 bond issuing syndicate worth USD 4,5 billion, Credit Suisse undersigned USD 315 million.

- **La Roche**

Credit Suisse is amongst the top ten shareholders of La Roche, owning shares worth USD 2,5 billion (1,07%) (2014-2015). In 2012, Credit Suisse was part of a two-bank syndicate issuing new bonds for La Roche, with Credit Suisse undersigning half of them, worth USD 599,7 million.

In a May 2014, in a bond issuing syndicate worth USD 5,75 billion, Credit Suisse undersigned USD 1,4 billion. In a November 2014 bond issuing syndicate worth USD 350 million, Credit Suisse undersigned USD 87,5 million.

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