NOVARTIS AG
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER

PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 or 15d-16 OF

THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Report on Form 6-K dated October 24, 2006

(Commission File No. 1-15024)

This Report on Form 6-K shall be incorporated by reference in our Registration Statements on Form F-3 as filed with the Commission on May 11, 2001 (File No. 333-60712) and on January 31, 2002 (File No. 333-81862) and our Registration Statements on Form S-8 as filed with the Commission on September 5, 2006 (File No. 333-137112), on October 1, 2004 (File No. 333-119475) and on May 14, 2001 (File No. 333-13506), in each case to the extent not superseded by documents or reports subsequently filed by us under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, in each case as amended

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Novartis AG

(Name of Registrant)

Lichtstrasse 35

4056 Basel

Switzerland

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

Form 20-F: x Form 40-F: o

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes: o **No**: x

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes: o **No**: x

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes: o **No**: x

Enclosure: **Novartis AG Announces Results for the Third Quarter of 2006**

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MEDIA RELEASE **COMMUNIQUE AUX MEDIAS** **MEDIENMITTEILUNG**

Novartis delivers dynamic sales and earnings growth in the first nine months of 2006, reaffirms outlook for record full-year results

Group continues double-digit expansion

Nine-month net sales up 14% (+15% lc) to USD 27.0 billion on strong underlying growth and acquisition-related contributions

Operating income rises 17%, supported by all divisions as productivity initiatives offset Chiron acquisition costs and investments in new launches

Net income up 16% to USD 5.5 billion, EPS also rises 15% to USD 2.36 per share

Excluding Chiron acquisition-related charges, Group operating income for first nine months advances 26% and net income up 23%

New Vaccines and Diagnostics division off to a good start after creation in April 2006 from Chiron acquisition

US and EU submissions completed for Galvus (type 2 diabetes) as well as Tekturna[(1)] and Exforge (hypertension), Tasigna (cancer) on track for US/EU submissions in 2006

Key figures

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006		YTD 2005		% Change	
	USD m	% of net sales	USD m	% of net sales	USD	lc
Net sales	**26 967**		23 555		14	15
Operating income	**6 350**	23.5	5 417	23.0	17	
Net income	**5 539**	20.5	4 789	20.3	16	
Basic earnings per share/ADS	**USD 2.36**		USD 2.05		15	

Third quarter

	Q3 2006		Q3 2005		% Change	
	USD m	% of net sales	USD m	% of net sales	USD	lc
Net sales	**9 484**		8 415		13	11
Operating income	**2 088**	22.0	1 888	22.4	11	
Net income	**1 870**	19.7	1 666	19.8	12	
Basic earnings per share/ADS	**USD 0.80**		USD 0.71		13	

Excluding charges related to Chiron acquisition, Q3 Group operating income rises 24% and net income up 22%

(1) *Tekturna* replaces *Rasilez* as the proposed global brand name for aliskiren

Basel, October 19, 2006 Commenting on the results, Dr. Daniel Vasella, Chairman and CEO of Novartis, said, *I am pleased that all of our divisions delivered strong results in the first nine months of the year. Pharmaceuticals delivered double-digit growth in our Cardiovascular, Oncology and Neuroscience franchises further strengthening their market positions. Our Vaccines and Diagnostics business is progressing well, already having made the industry s first shipments of injectable influenza vaccines to the US. Thanks to our commitment to innovation, we have a full pipeline and have completed major submissions in the US and Europe for Galvus, Tekturna and Exforge. Based on the ongoing strong performance, I am confident that Novartis will continue to grow dynamically and achieve another year of record sales and earnings.*

Net sales

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	% change		
	USD m	USD m	USD		lc
Pharmaceuticals	**16 527**	15 014	10		11
Vaccines and Diagnostics	**501**				
Sandoz	**4 306**	3 121	38		38
Consumer Health	**5 633**	5 420	4		5
Total	**26 967**	23 555	14		15

Solid performances from all divisions drove the expansion, a mixture of underlying organic growth and contributions from acquisitions. Volume growth represented six percentage points of net sales growth and acquisitions eight percentage points. Prices rose one percentage point, while currencies led to a decline of one percentage point.

Pharmaceuticals again grew faster than the market, with Cardiovascular, Oncology and Neuroscience franchises delivering double-digit growth. Pharmaceuticals raised its share of the global pharmaceuticals market to 4.0% for the first eight months of 2006, according to IMS Health. US sales were up 17% on strong volume growth for key brands. Volume and product mix contributed six percentage points to net sales growth and net price changes added three percentage points. The pharmaceuticals activities of Chiron represented two percentage points, while currency translations were a decline of one percentage point.

Vaccines and Diagnostics net sales of USD 501 million represent the period from the acquisition of Chiron in April to form this new division. On a pro forma basis since acquisition, vaccines sales rose 60% over the year-ago period, mainly from shipments of influenza vaccines to the US and pre-pandemic H5N1 flu vaccines to the United

Kingdom. Diagnostics net sales were up 17% on geographic expansion of nucleic acid blood testing products in Europe and the rollout of West Nile Virus tests.

Sandoz benefited from good underlying retail generics sales growth, particularly in the US, Eastern Europe, Russia, Switzerland, Canada and Australia, as well as contributions from the Hexal and Eon Labs acquisitions.

Consumer Health showed net sales growth of 9% in local currencies excluding the Nutrition & Santé divestiture in February 2006. The focus on strategic brands fueled double-digit expansion in OTC, which was also supported by the mid-2005 acquisition of the OTC business from Bristol-Myers Squibb, as well as in Animal Health.

Third quarter

	Q3 2006	Q3 2005	% change		
	USD m	USD m	USD		lc
Pharmaceuticals	**5 776**	5 093	13		12
Vaccines and Diagnostics	**374**				
Sandoz	**1 425**	1 486		4	7
Consumer Health	**1 909**	1 836	4		3
Total	**9 484**	8 415	13		11

Group net sales advance 13% (+11% lc) to USD 9.5 billion

Pharmaceuticals led the underlying expansion along with support from the Consumer Health division and acquisitions. Higher sales volumes added five percentage points to net sales growth and acquisitions seven percentage points. Currency translation contributed two percentage points, while net price changes showed a decline of one percentage point.

Pharmaceuticals net sales climb 13% (+12% lc) to USD 5.8 billion

Very strong net sales growth was supported by 9% organic growth in local currencies thanks primarily to double-digit growth performances from the Cardiovascular, Oncology and Neuroscience franchises. Cardiovascular strategic brand sales were up 19% (+16% lc) to USD 1.7 billion on dynamic performances from *Diovan* (+17% lc) and *Lotrel* (+32% lc). *Gleevec/Glivec* (+17% lc) and *Femara* (+37% lc) led the 20% (+18% lc) rise in Oncology net sales to USD 1.5 billion. Chiron s pharmaceuticals business added three percentage points to net sales growth in local currencies.

In the US, net sales surged 17% to USD 2.4 billion, led by excellent performances from *Diovan* (+23%), *Gleevec* (+24%), *Lotrel* (+32%) and *Zelnorm* (+31%). Net sales in Europe were up 16% in USD (+12% lc) as strong performances from *Diovan, Glivec* and *Femara* as well as in the emerging European growth markets of Russia and Turkey were partially offset by healthcare pricing pressure and generic competition for some products. Latin America delivered a strong expansion thanks to performances from Brazil and Mexico, with sales in the region up 22% (+19% lc).

Vaccines and Diagnostics net sales of USD 374 million

Shipments of seasonal influenza vaccines to the US as well as a one-time tender to the United Kingdom for pre-pandemic H5N1 vaccines were the key components of vaccine net sales growth, which rose 63% on a pro-forma basis over the 2005 period. Diagnostics sales showed steady growth over the year-ago period on improved US pricing and market penetration in Europe and Asia-Pacific.

Sandoz net sales decline 4% (7% lc) to USD 1.4 billion

The first-time consolidation in the 2005 third quarter of Hexal (four months of sales) and Eon Labs (two months of sales) distorted the good underlying performance. Net sales were also reduced by a one-time adjustment of USD 20 million for sales deductions. Excluding these items, net sales growth was 6% on good performances in Eastern Europe, the US and Australia. Volume gains were seen in Germany from recently launched products, but net sales were lower due to the impact of price cuts announced in the second quarter.

Consumer Health net sales rises 4% (+3% lc) to USD 1.9 billion

Double-digit sales expansions in Animal Health and OTC, in part from US brands acquired from BMS, drove Consumer Health net sales growth. Also supporting the performance were high-single-digit net sales growth in Medical Nutrition.

Operating income

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006		YTD 2005		Change
	USD m	% of net sales	USD m	% of net sales	In %
Pharmaceuticals	**5 082**	30.7	4 656	31.0	9
Vaccines and Diagnostics	**-28**				
Sandoz	**532**	12.4	223	7.1	139
Consumer Health	**1 120**	19.9	865	16.0	29
Corporate income & expense, net	-356		-327		
Total	**6 350**	23.5	5 417	23.0	17

Group operating income advanced at a strong pace, underpinned by Pharmaceuticals as well as from contributions and synergies from 2005 acquisitions in Sandoz and OTC that more than offset one-time costs related to the Chiron acquisition. A one-time gain of USD 129 million from the divestment of Nutrition & Santé supported Consumer Health.

Pharmaceuticals operating income rose slightly below net sales growth owing to one-time costs related to the acquisition of Chiron s pharmaceuticals unit. Excluding these charges, operating income was up 14% on productivity gains in all areas.

Vaccines and Diagnostics had an underlying operating income of USD 198 million that was more than offset by one-time restructuring and related acquisition costs of USD 122 million and an impact of USD 104 million from amortization of intangible assets.

Sandoz operating income advanced sharply faster than net sales growth on operational improvements and the good performance of the anti-infectives business as well as the impact in the year-ago period of acquisition-related costs from Hexal and Eon Labs.

Consumer Health operating income rose mainly on the performance of strategic brands in OTC and Animal Health as well as a gain of USD 129 million from the divestment of Nutrition & Santé in February 2006. Excluding this divestiture, operating income still grew faster than sales, up 15% over the year-ago period.

Third quarter

	Q3 2006		Q3 2005		Change
	USD m	% of net sales	USD m	% of net sales	In %
Pharmaceuticals	**1 779**	30.8	1 681	33.0	6
Vaccines and Diagnostics	**10**	2.7			
Sandoz	**87**	6.1	34	2.3	156
Consumer Health	**350**	18.3	290	15.8	21
Corporate income & expense, net	-138		-117		
Total	**2 088**	22.0	1 888	22.4	11

Group operating income advances 11% to USD 2.1 billion

Operating income grew at a slower pace than sales as the good underlying performance was negatively impacted by one-time costs and amortization of intangible assets related to the Chiron acquisition. Operating income was up 24% when excluding Chiron-related charges of USD 253 million, which affected Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines and Diagnostics.

Pharmaceuticals operating income up 6% to USD 1.8 billion

Thanks to strong volume expansion and productivity initiatives, operating income rose 11% before the impact of USD 94 million in charges related to Chiron s pharmaceuticals unit. Marketing & Sales expenses rose 15%, reflecting increased pre-launch investments in the 2006 third quarter in *Galvus* (type 2 diabetes), *Tekturna* and *Exforge* (hypertension). R&D expenses rose an over proportional 12% before Chiron costs, mainly driven by registration trials as well as new in-licensing deals concluded in 2006. Costs of Goods Sold (COGS) was up 22%, but 16% before Chiron-related acquisition costs. General & Administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales were down 0.3 percentage points thanks to productivity initiatives.

Vaccines and Diagnostics operating income of USD 10 million

Operating income of USD 10 million in the third quarter reflected underlying operating income of USD 169 million, which more than offset one-time restructuring and related acquisition costs of USD 80 million and USD 79 million in expenses for the amortization of intangible assets. The performance was particularly supported by shipments of influenza vaccines to the US and a tender sale of avian pre-pandemic flu vaccines to the UK. The third and fourth quarters are traditionally the strong periods of the year based on flu vaccine sales.

Sandoz operating income rises 156% to USD 87 million

Operating income benefited from the good underlying sales performance in key markets as well as the realization of synergies from the Hexal and Eon Labs acquisitions. Price reductions in Germany and a one-time charge of USD 58 million (which includes the one-time adjustment of USD 20 million for sales deductions) in France to correct for accounting irregularities in earlier periods had a negative impact. Supporting growth were lower acquisition-related costs in the 2006 third quarter compared to the year-ago period.

Consumer Health operating income climbs 21% to USD 350 million

OTC, Animal Health and Medical Nutrition drove underlying operating income growth that came primarily from tight cost control.

Group net income in the first nine months up 16% to USD 5.5 billion

Group net income grew at a double-digit rate in the first nine months of 2006 as the return on net sales rose slightly to 20.5% from 20.3% in the year-ago period. The strong underlying business expansion, which led to operating income rising faster than net sales despite the impact of acquisitions, was slightly offset by lower financial income and a marginally higher tax rate. Excluding the impact of the one-time charges related to the Chiron acquisition, net income for the first nine months was up 23%.

Novartis commitment to building a strong presence in human vaccines

Novartis has made significant progress in transforming the human vaccines and diagnostics activities acquired from Chiron into a strategic growth platform with dynamic potential. The pharmaceuticals unit of Chiron has been integrated into the Pharmaceuticals division, while research activities are now part of the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR).

We are committed to ensuring a reliable vaccine supply, which is critical to prevent the spread of diseases. We are investing in our business to drive innovation in the development of new vaccines including flu cell culture vaccines as well as growing our traditional flu vaccine operations, said Jörg Reinhardt, CEO of Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics.

In August 2006, Novartis completed the first shipments of the ***Fluvirin*** influenza virus vaccine to the US for the 2006-2007 season, making *Fluvirin* the first injectable flu vaccine available this year. Novartis sold 14.6 million doses of *Fluvirin* in the 2006 third quarter and anticipates deliveries of at least 30 million *Fluvirin* doses to the US for the current season, an increase from 13 million in total for the previous season.

Novartis also submitted ***Optaflu***, a cell-culture based influenza vaccine, in the third quarter for European approval. The vaccine was developed and produced at the Novartis vaccine site in Marburg, Germany. Plans were also announced in July to build a new cell culture plant in the US state of North Carolina. Cell-culture based influenza vaccines promise many advantages over egg-based production, including greater reliability and reduced production lead time that could be critical in a pandemic.

Novartis expects total annual cost synergies for the Group of USD 200 million within three years after the closing of the Chiron acquisition, with 50% expected to be achieved in the first 18 months. Given the good performance of Chiron activities following the acquisition, the currently anticipated negative impact for 2006 on net income and operating income has been reduced by USD 50 million. For the full year, Novartis now expects Chiron to have a net negative effect on operating income of USD 300-350 million, reflecting operating income in the Vaccines and Diagnostics division as well as Pharmaceuticals offset by acquisition-related charges, including integration, restructuring, inventory step-up costs and the amortization of intangibles. The negative impact on Group net income is now expected to be USD 350 million to USD 400 million, reflecting one-time charges in associated companies income and lower net financial income due to lower net liquidity.

Net sales of over USD 900 million are expected for the new Vaccines and Diagnostics division in 2006 as well as a contribution of USD 350 million (including the multiple sclerosis medicine Betaseron®) to the Pharmaceuticals division. Discussions continue on the restructuring of the collaboration with Bayer AG and Schering AG for Betaseron®, which was acquired from Chiron.

Group outlook

(Barring any unforeseen events)

For the full year, Novartis reaffirms expectations for double-digit net sales growth in local currencies for the Group and Pharmaceuticals and further market share gains. Record levels of operating and net income are expected in 2006.

Pharmaceutical business and key product highlights

Note: All growth figures refer to worldwide sales growth in local currencies for the first nine months of 2006, unless otherwise specified.

Diovan (USD 3.1 billion, +16% lc), the leading product by sales in the angiotensin-receptor blocker (ARB) class of anti-hypertensive agents, has delivered robust growth and market share gains in its segment based on the positive acceptance of new indications, higher-strength doses and strong efficacy data. *Diovan* expanded its leadership position in the US, improving its share of total ARB class prescriptions to 38.7% in August the highest level in the last 12 months and outpacing the expansion of the US antihypertensive market. Sales of *Co-Diovan* (a combination with a diuretic) advanced at a rapid pace in Europe (+21% lc).

Gleevec/Glivec (USD 1.9 billion, +18% lc), a targeted treatment for patients with certain forms of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) and gastro-intestinal stromal tumors (GIST), received EU approval for treating another form of leukemia (Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia) and a hard-to-treat solid cancer tumor known as dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DFSP). Use of *Glivec* as a treatment for three other rare diseases remains under EU review. US review for all five rare cancers is ongoing. Penetration of the CML and GIST markets and the increasing number of patients thanks to improved survival have been key growth drivers. In the US, the first competitor product for patients with CML emerged in the third quarter.

Lotrel (USD 998 million, +28% only in US), the No. 1 fixed-dose combination treatment for hypertension in the US since 2002, has benefited from new dosing strengths as well as increasing use of multiple therapies to treat hypertension, demographic factors and the impact of US disease awareness campaigns.

Zometa (USD 944 million, +4% lc), an intravenous bisphosphonate for patients with bone metastases, has been impacted by an overall slowing of the bisphosphonate segment but has gained market share in treating patients with lung and prostate cancer and has also benefited from a recent launch in Japan.

Lamisil (USD 752 million, 14% lc), an oral treatment for fungal nail infections, delivered solid sales growth of 9% in the US that was more than offset by declining sales in many European markets following the entry of generic competition in late 2005.

Femara (USD 515 million, +32% lc), a leading treatment for women with hormone-related breast cancer, was a key growth driver. *Femara* generated market share gains, particularly in the US, based on use by women receiving treatment post-surgery (adjuvant) as well as after completion of tamoxifen therapy (extended adjuvant). Recent four-year data from a major trial confirmed *Femara* significantly reduced risk of breast cancer returning, even in women more likely to suffer recurrence, and revealed a potential benefit in women at lower risk namely those whose cancer was not found in lymph nodes at time of diagnosis.

Zelnorm/Zelmac (USD 408 million, +38% lc), for treatment of irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) and chronic idiopathic constipation, performed well based on strong US growth as well as ongoing disease awareness programs.

Visudyne (USD 277 million, 26% lc), for the eye condition wet AMD (age-related macular degeneration), generated sales growth outside of the US, particularly in Japan and the UK, but continued to be impacted by off-label competition in the US.

Exjade (USD 93 million), a once-daily oral iron chelator for chronic iron overload, received European approval in August 2006, where it is now being launched for use in treating iron overload related to the blood disorders sickle cell anemia, myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and thalassemia.

Xolair (USD 67 million), for severe allergic asthma, has now been launched in over 20 countries following EU approval in October 2005, with approvals received in 51 countries. In the US, *Xolair* is co-promoted by Novartis and Genentech, which distributes the product and shares a portion of its operating income with Novartis and Tanox. Genentech had nine-month sales of USD 307 million for *Xolair* in the US, resulting in a contribution to Novartis of USD 116 million reported as Other Revenues.

Novartis pipeline and regulatory update

Novartis is preparing for a series of important new product launches in 2007-2008, with many of these compounds addressing significant unmet medical needs. US and European submissions for three important compounds *Galvus* (type 2 diabetes) as well as *Tekturna* and *Exforge* (hypertension) have been completed.

Among the recent developments:

***Galvus*[(1)]** (vildagliptin) was submitted for European approval in August as a new once-daily oral treatment for patients with type 2 diabetes, while a response to the US submission is anticipated by the end of 2006. Phase III data has confirmed the impressive efficacy and attractive tolerability profile of *Galvus* to potentially benefit many patients struggling to control their disease and address the inadequacies of many current therapies. *Galvus* has been shown to be as effective as a TZD (thiazolidinedione), another oral anti-diabetic class of medicines, in reducing blood sugar but without the side effects of weight gain, edema or heart failure. More than 60 studies are completed or ongoing, with 12 more studies planned to start within the next year. Over 7,000 patients have been involved in the *Galvus* clinical program to date.

***Tekturna*[(2)]** (aliskiren), seeking to be the first in a new class of anti-hypertensive agents called direct renin inhibitors, was accepted for review in the European Union in September, while the US submission was completed in April. New Phase III data presented in September showed *Tekturna,* developed in collaboration with Speedel, demonstrated superior blood pressure control as a monotherapy over an ACE inhibitor, another class of oral hypertensive medicines, with full 24-hour blood pressure reduction. In co-administration with other antihypertensive medicines, it has shown significant additive effects in reducing blood pressure.

***Exforge*[(1)]**, a single tablet containing the calcium channel blocker amlodipine and the angiotensin receptor blocker valsartan, has been submitted for US and EU approval in 2006. Phase III data shows strong blood pressure reductions up to 43 mm Hg in the most severe patients with excellent tolerability superior to that observed with amlodipine alone. Data also showed the two complementary mechanisms of action helped over 80% of patients studied to reach recommended blood pressure goals.

***Tasigna*[(1)]** (nilotinib, formerly AMN107) remains on track for US and EU submission as a new option for patients with resistance to treatment in certain forms of chronic myeloid leukemia. Interim Phase II results presented at the ASCO meeting in June found that 46% of patients with chronic phase Philadelphia chromosome-positive (Ph+) chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) resistant or intolerant to optimized *Gleevec/Glivec* therapy achieved a major

cytogenic response with *Tasigna* after six months of treatment. Both *Tasigna* and *Gleevec/Glivec* inhibit Bcr-Abl, the definitive cause of Ph+ CML. *Tasigna* was specifically designed to be a more selective inhibitor of Bcr-Abl and its mutations.

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(1) Brand name awaiting approval by regulatory authorities

(2) *Tekturna* replaces *Rasilez* as the proposed global brand name for aliskiren

FTY720 (fingolimod)**,** an oral once-daily treatment for relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS), has shown sustained benefits over two years in patients in the extension of a Phase II trial, indicating that it could provide an important new option for treating this disabling neurological disease. Enrollment in Phase III trials are underway to demonstrate the efficacy of FTY720 in reducing the frequency of MS relapses and slowing disability progression. US and EU submissions are set for 2009.

***Aclasta/Reclast*[(1)]** (zoledronic acid), seeking to be the first once-yearly bisphosphonate treatment for postmenopausal osteoporosis and Paget s disease of the bone, was shown in new Phase III data to demonstrate high efficacy in reducing the incidence of bone fracture in women with postmenopausal osteoporosis. Benefits were seen among the most common fracture sites (hip, spine and non-spine), with the effect sustained over three years. In a separate study, the majority of women being treated preferred a once-yearly infusion over a once-weekly pill.

Sebivo (telbivudine) received its first major approval in Switzerland as a new therapy for patients with chronic hepatitis B, a virus estimated to affect about 350 million people worldwide. *Sebivo* has been shown to achieve rapid and profound suppression of the hepatitis B virus. Submissions were completed in the US in late 2005 as well as in the EU and Asia in early 2006. Novartis shares rights for *Sebivo* with Idenix.

Lucentis (ranibizumab) received its first European approval in Switzerland in August as a treatment for wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a leading cause of blindness in people over age 50. Lucentis has also been submitted by Novartis for approval in Europe and Australia. Genentech has the rights to Lucentis in the US.

Exelon (rivastigmine) was shown in the IDEAL study to offer a promising new drug delivery approach when given once-daily to Alzheimer s disease patients via a skin patch. The study showed that Exelon Patch provided benefits across a range of symptoms and the target dose was well tolerated. Patients receiving Exelon Patch showed significant improvements in memory and were better able to maintain everyday activities. Over 70% of caregivers in the study preferred the patch to the approved oral capsules as a method of drug delivery.

Novartis and Schering-Plough initiated a collaboration to develop and commercialize a novel once-daily inhaled fixed-dose combination therapy for patients with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The goal is to combine the beta-agonist **QAB149** (indacaterol) of Novartis with Schering-Plough s corticosteroid mometasone (Asmanex®) in a single inhalation device. The combined product would have the potential to offer patients benefits with once-daily dosing.

Novartis completed in the third quarter the acquisition of **NeuTec Pharma**, a UK biopharmaceutical company that will expand access to the hospital segment of the anti-infectives market through Mycograb® for treatment of fungal infections and Aurograb® for serious bacterial infections.

Sandoz formed an exclusive collaboration in July with **Momenta Pharmaceuticals** to develop four follow-on versions of previously approved recombinant biotechnology and complex drugs. Sandoz made an equity investment of USD 75 million and gained exclusive access to Momenta s product characterization tools, which has developed technology for detailed chemical sequencing and analysis of complex mixtures.

Corporate

Financial income, net

Net financial income for the first nine months was USD 50 million compared to USD 124 million in the year-ago period, reflecting the sharp drop of USD 3.2 billion in net liquidity in the first nine months as a result of recent acquisitions. The Group had at September 30, 2006, net debt of USD 0.7 billion compared to net liquidity of USD 1.0 billion at the corresponding date in 2005. Net financial income in the first nine months reflects good currency and interest rate management.

Income from associated companies

Associated companies contributed net income of USD 193 million in the first nine months of 2006 against USD 126 million in the year-ago period. In the third quarter, associated companies had income of USD 88 million, an increase from USD 65 million in the same period in 2005, fully the result of a higher profit contribution from the Roche investment. This represented an anticipated share of USD 115 million of Roche s net income for the third quarter, which was partially reduced by charges of USD 27 million for the amortization of intangible assets.

Balance sheet

The Group s equity increased by USD 5.4 billion to USD 38.6 billion at September 30, 2006, compared with USD 33.2 billion at the end of 2005. This increase came from net income of USD 5.5 billion in the first nine months of 2006, an upward revaluation of USD 0.6 billion of the initial Chiron minority stake and increased equity from share-based compensation of USD 0.4 billion as well as translation gains of USD 0.9 billion. This was partially offset by the dividend payment of USD 2.0 billion.

Net debt amounted to USD 0.7 billion at September 30, 2006, compared to net liquidity of USD 2.5 billion at the beginning of the year. The debt/equity ratio improved to 0.24:1 at September 30 from 0.25:1 at December 31, 2005.

Total non-current assets increased by USD 9.6 billion in the first nine months, principally due to goodwill, other intangible assets and property, plant & equipment arising from the Chiron and NeuTec acquisitions.

Novartis did not repurchase any shares during the first nine months of 2006 through its share repurchase program via a second trading line on the SWX Swiss Exchange.

Novartis is one of the few non-financial services companies worldwide to have attained the highest credit ratings from Standard & Poor s, Moody s and Fitch, the three benchmark rating agencies. S&P has rated Novartis as AAA for long-term maturities and as A1+ for short-term maturities. Moody s has rated the Group as Aaa and P1, respectively, while Fitch has rated Novartis as AAA for long-term maturities and as F1+ for short-term maturities.

Cash flow

Cash flow from operating activities increased by USD 0.6 billion in the first nine months of 2006 to USD 6.4 billion, reflecting the business expansion and strict management of working capital by the divisions. Cash flow used for investing activities includes the net investment of USD 4.0 billion to acquire Chiron, USD 0.6 billion to acquire NeuTec and capital expenditures of USD 1.1 billion as well as proceeds of USD 0.2 billion from the Nutrition & Santé divestment. Free cash flow after dividends was USD 2.7 billion for the first nine months of 2006, a decline of USD 0.4 billion from the year-ago period as lower net proceeds from asset disposals as well as higher net purchases of intangible assets and capital expenditures offset the improvement in operating cash flow.

Disclaimer

This release contains certain forward-looking statements relating to the Group s business, which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as potential , pipeline , confident , expectations , expected , planned , anticipated , expects , outlook , preparing to l growing , awaiting regulatory approval , set to be completed , scheduled , remains on track , plans is set for , late-stage , about to enter similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential future financial results or sales of new or existing products; potential new products, or potential new indications for existing products; or by other discussions of strategy, plans, expectations or intentions. Such statements reflect the current views of management with respect to future events and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. There can be no guarantee that the Group will achieve any particular financial results, or that any particular products will reach any particular sales levels. Neither can there be any guarantee that any new products will be approved for sale in any market, or that any new indications will be approved for existing products in any market. In particular, management s expectations could be affected by, among other things, uncertainties involved in the development of new pharmaceutical products, including unexpected clinical trial results; unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; the Group s ability to obtain or maintain patent or other proprietary intellectual property protection; competition in general; government, industry, and general public pricing pressures; the risk that the businesses Novartis has acquired will not be integrated successfully; the risk that the cost savings and any other synergies from the transactions may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected; the risk that disruptions from the transactions may make it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees or suppliers; and other risks and factors referred to in the Group s current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described herein as anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

About Novartis

Novartis AG (NYSE: NVS) is a world leader in offering medicines to protect health, cure disease and improve well-being. Our goal is to discover, develop and successfully market innovative products to treat patients, ease suffering and enhance the quality of life. Novartis is the only company with leadership positions in both patented and generic pharmaceuticals. We are strengthening our medicine-based portfolio, which is focused on strategic growth platforms in innovation-driven pharmaceuticals, high-quality and low-cost generics, human vaccines and leading self-medication OTC brands. In 2005, the Group s businesses achieved net sales of USD 32.2 billion and net income of USD 6.1 billion. Approximately USD 4.8 billion was invested in R&D. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ approximately 99,000 people and operate in over 140 countries around the world. For more information, please visit http://www.novartis.com.

Further important dates

November 28, 2006	R&D Update (London)
January 18, 2007	Annual Financial Results

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Consolidated income statements (unaudited)

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Change	
	USD m	USD m	USD m	%
Total net sales	**26 967**	**23 555**	**3 412**	**14**
Other revenues	463	218	245	112
Cost of Goods Sold	-7 785	-6 351	-1 434	23
Of which amortization and impairments of product and patent rights and trademarks	*-549*	*-290*	*-259*	*89*
Gross profit	**19 645**	**17 422**	**2 223**	**13**
Marketing & Sales	-7 689	-7 173	-516	7
Research & Development	-3 811	-3 374	-437	13
General & Administration	-1 379	-1 234	-145	12
Other income & expense	-416	-224	-192	86
Operating income	**6 350**	**5 417**	**933**	**17**
Income from associated companies	193	126	67	53
Financial income	259	351	-92	-26
Interest expense	-209	-227	18	-8
Income before taxes	**6 593**	**5 667**	**926**	**16**
Taxes	-1 054	-878	-176	20
Net income	**5 539**	**4 789**	**750**	**16**
Attributable to:				
Equity holders of the parent	*5 521*	*4 780*	*741*	*16*
Minority interests	*18*	*9*	*9*	*100*
Average number of shares outstanding - Basic (million)	**2 344.1**	**2 332.0**	**12.1**	
Basic earnings per share (USD) [(1)]	**2.36**	**2.05**	**0.31**	**15**
Average number of shares outstanding - Diluted (million)	2 359.4	2 340.4	19.0	
Diluted earnings per share (USD)[(1)]	2.34	2.04	0.30	15

(1) Earnings per share (EPS) is calculated on the amount of net income attributable to the equity holders of the parent

Consolidated statement of recognized income and expense (unaudited)

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m	Change USD m
Net income	5 539	4 789	750
Fair value adjustments on financial instruments	-12	-24	12
Actuarial losses from defined benefit plans	-116	-514	398
Additionally recognized amounts by associated companies	-67	34	-101
Revaluation of initial Chiron investment	609		609
Translation movements	871	-1 751	2 622
Recognized income and expense	**6 824**	**2 534**	**4 290**

Consolidated income statements (unaudited)

Third quarter

	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m	Change USD m	Change %
Total net sales	**9 484**	**8 415**	**1 069**	**13**
Other revenues	206	74	132	178
Cost of Goods Sold	-2 888	-2 450	-438	18
Of which amortization and impairments of product and patent rights and trademarks	*-230*	*-141*	*-89*	*63*
Gross profit	**6 802**	**6 039**	**763**	**13**
Marketing & Sales	-2 635	-2 393	-242	10
Research & Development	-1 415	-1 191	-224	19
General & Administration	-473	-428	-45	11
Other income & expense	-191	-139	-52	37
Operating income	**2 088**	**1 888**	**200**	**11**
Income from associated companies	88	65	23	35
Financial income	72	98	-26	-27
Interest expense	-76	-80	4	-5
Income before taxes	**2 172**	**1 971**	**201**	**10**
Taxes	-302	-305	3	-1
Net income	**1 870**	**1 666**	**204**	**12**
Attributable to:				
Equity holders of the parent	*1 867*	*1 659*	*208*	*13*
Minority interests	*3*	*7*	*-4*	*-57*
Average number of shares outstanding - Basic (million)	**2 347.5**	**2 333.8**	**13.7**	
Basic earnings per share (USD) (1)	**0.80**	**0.71**	**0.09**	**13**
Average number of shares outstanding - Diluted (million)	2 361.9	2 344.0	17.9	
Diluted earnings per share (USD)(1)	0.79	0.71	0.08	11

(1) Earnings per share (EPS) is calculated on the amount of net income attributable to the equity holders of the parent

Consolidated statement of recognized income and expense (unaudited)

Third quarter

	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m	Change USD m
Net income	1 870	1 666	204

Fair value adjustments on financial instruments	64	54	10
Actuarial losses from defined benefit plans	-412	-458	46
Additionally recognized amounts by associated companies	-58	-40	-18
Revaluation of initial Chiron investment	-54		-54
Translation movements	-169	-71	-98
Recognized income and expense	**1 241**	**1 151**	**90**

Condensed consolidated balance sheets

	Sept 30, 2006 (unaudited) USD m	Dec 31, 2005 USD m	Change USD m	Sept 30, 2005 (unaudited) USD m
Assets				
Total non-current assets	**45 889**	**36 289**	**9 600**	**36 194**
Current assets				
Inventories	4 610	3 725	885	3 889
Trade accounts receivable	6 087	5 343	744	5 137
Other current assets	1 746	1 442	304	1 503
Cash, short-term deposits and marketable securities	8 530	10 933	-2 403	7 947
Total current assets	**20 973**	**21 443**	**-470**	**18 476**
Total assets	**66 862**	**57 732**	**9 130**	**54 670**
Equity and liabilities				
Total equity	**38 590**	**33 164**	**5 426**	**31 748**
Non-current liabilities				
Financial debts	1 963	1 319	644	2 435
Other non-current liabilities	9 994	7 921	2 073	8 134
Total non-current liabilities	**11 957**	**9 240**	**2 717**	**10 569**
Current liabilities				
Trade accounts payable	2 113	1 961	152	1 773
Financial debts and derivatives	7 258	7 135	123	4 467
Other current liabilities	6 944	6 232	712	6 113
Total current liabilities	**16 315**	**15 328**	**987**	**12 353**
Total liabilities	**28 272**	**24 568**	**3 704**	**22 922**
Total equity and liabilities	**66 862**	**57 732**	**9 130**	**54 670**

Condensed consolidated changes in equity (unaudited)

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m	Change USD m
Consolidated equity at January 1	**33 164**	**31 315**	**1 849**
Recognized income and expense	6 824	2 534	4 290
Sale (+)/purchase (-) of treasury shares, net	290	-281	571
Share-based compensation	372	314	58
Dividends	-2 049	-2 107	58
Changes in minorities	-11	-27	16
Consolidated equity at Sept 30	**38 590**	**31 748**	**6 842**

Third quarter

	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m	Change USD m
Consolidated equity at July 1	**37 164**	**30 403**	**6 761**
Recognized income and expense	1 241	1 151	90
Sale of treasury shares, net	69	95	-26
Share-based compensation	128	111	17
Changes in minorities	-12	-12	
Consolidated equity at Sept 30	**38 590**	**31 748**	**6 842**

Condensed consolidated cash flow statements (unaudited)

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m	Change USD m
Net income	**5 539**	**4 789**	**750**
Reversal of non-cash items			
Taxes	1 054	878	176
Depreciation, amortization and impairments	1 471	1 077	394
Net financial income	-50	-124	74
Other	-41	-132	91
Net income adjusted for non-cash items	**7 973**	**6 488**	**1 485**
Interest and other financial receipts	399	441	-42
Interest and other financial payments	-125	-151	26
Taxes paid	-1 439	-982	-457
Cash flow before working capital and provision changes	**6 808**	**5 796**	**1 012**
Restructuring payments and other cash payments out of provisions	-202	-253	51
Change in net current assets and other operating cash flow items	-186	272	-458
Cash flow from operating activities	**6 420**	**5 815**	**605**
Investments in property, plant & equipment	-1 142	-770	-372
Acquisitions/divestments of subsidiaries	-4 307	-8 542	4 235
Decrease/increase in marketable securities, intangible and financial assets	-292	3 135	- 3 427
Cash flow used for investing activities	**-5 741**	**-6 177**	**436**
Cash flow used for financing activities	**-3 032**	**-2 067**	**-965**
Translation effect on cash and cash equivalents	45	-122	167
Change in cash and cash equivalents	**-2 308**	**-2 551**	**243**
Cash and cash equivalents at January 1	6 321	6 083	238
Cash and cash equivalents at Sept 30	**4 013**	**3 532**	**481**

Condensed consolidated cash flow statements (unaudited)

Third quarter

	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m	Change USD m
Net income	**1 870**	**1 666**	**204**
Reversal of non-cash items			
Taxes	302	305	-3
Depreciation, amortization and impairments	588	498	90
Net financial income	4	-18	22
Other	39	6	33
Net income adjusted for non-cash items	**2 803**	**2 457**	**346**
Interest and other financial receipts	98	116	-18
Interest and other financial payments	-40	-67	27
Taxes paid	-367	-306	-61
Cash flow before working capital and provision changes	**2 494**	**2 200**	**294**
Restructuring payments and other cash payments out of provisions	-76	-61	-15
Change in net current assets and other operating cash flow items	99	394	-295
Cash flow from operating activities	**2 517**	**2 533**	**-16**
Investments in property, plant & equipment	-485	-285	-200
Acquisitions/divestments of subsidiaries	-221	-3 245	3 024
Decrease/increase in marketable securities, intangible and financial assets	226	198	28
Cash flow used for investing activities	**-480**	**-3 332**	**2 852**
Cash flow used for financing activities	**-462**	**-597**	**135**
Translation effect on cash and cash equivalents	-12	-11	-1
Change in cash and cash equivalents	**1 563**	**-1 407**	**2 970**
Cash and cash equivalents at July 1	2 450	4 939	-2 489
Cash and cash equivalents at Sept 30	**4 013**	**3 532**	**481**

Net sales by Division (unaudited)

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	% change	
	USD m	USD m	USD	lc
Pharmaceuticals	**16 527**	15 014	10	11
Vaccines and Diagnostics	**501**			
Sandoz	**4 306**	3 121	38	38
Consumer Health	**5 633**	5 420	4	5
Total	**26 967**	23 555	14	15

Third quarter

	Q3 2006	Q3 2005	% change	
	USD m	USD m	USD	lc
Pharmaceuticals	**5 776**	5 093	13	12
Vaccines and Diagnostics	**374**			
Sandoz	**1 425**	1 486	-4	-7
Consumer Health	**1 909**	1 836	4	3
Total	**9 484**	8 415	13	11

Operating income by Division (unaudited)

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006		YTD 2005		Change
	USD m	% of net sales	USD m	% of net sales	In %
Pharmaceuticals	**5 082**	30.7	4 656	31.0	9
Vaccines and Diagnostics	**-28**				
Sandoz	**532**	12.4	223	7.1	139
Consumer Health	**1 120**	19.9	865	16.0	29

Corporate income & expense, net	-356		-327		
Total	**6 350**	23.5	5 417	23.0	17

Third quarter

	Q3 2006		Q3 2005		Change
	USD m	**% of net sales**	**USD m**	**% of net sales**	**In %**
Pharmaceuticals	**1 779**	30.8	1 681	33.0	6
Vaccines and Diagnostics	**10**	2.7			
Sandoz	**87**	6.1	34	2.3	156
Consumer Health	**350**	18.3	290	15.8	21
Corporate income & expense, net	-138		-117		
Total	**2 088**	22.0	1 888	22.4	11

Consolidated income statements **Divisional segmentation** (unaudited)

Nine months to September 30

	Pharmaceuticals Division		Vaccines and Diagnostics Division	Sandoz Division		Consumer Health Division		Corporate		Total	
	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m
Net sales to third parties	**16 527**	**15 014**	**501**	**4 306**	**3 121**	**5 633**	**5 420**			**26 967**	**23 555**
Sales to other Divisions	120	99	14	112	118	33	22	-279	-239		
Sales of Divisions	**16 647**	**15 113**	**515**	**4 418**	**3 239**	**5 666**	**5 442**	**-279**	**-239**	**26 967**	**23 555**
Other revenues	264	174	150	18	13	31	31			463	218
Cost of Goods Sold	-2 824	-2 415	-439	-2 487	-1 954	-2 329	-2 204	294	222	-7 785	-6 351
Of which amortization and impairments of product and patent rights and trademarks	*-151*	*-127*	*-104*	*-226*	*-117*	*-68*	*-46*			*-549*	*-290*
Gross profit	**14 087**	**12 872**	**226**	**1 949**	**1 298**	**3 368**	**3 269**	**15**	**-17**	**19 645**	**17 422**
Marketing & Sales	-5 043	-4 779	-73	-747	-550	-1 826	-1 844			-7 689	-7 173
Research & Development	-3 052	-2 756	-86	-342	-300	-208	-213	-123	-105	-3 811	-3 374
General & Administration	-485	-474	-48	-215	-179	-341	-314	-290	-267	-1 379	-1 234
Other income & expense	-425	-207	-47	-113	-46	127	-33	42	62	-416	-224
Of which amortization and impairments of capitalized intangibles included in function costs	*-65*	*-72*		*-26*	*-53*	*-30*	*-29*	*-7*	*-15*	*-128*	*-169*
Operating income	**5 082**	**4 656**	**-28**	**532**	**223**	**1 120**	**865**	**-356**	**-327**	**6 350**	**5 417**
Income from associated companies										193	126
Financial income										259	351
Interest expense										-209	-227
Income before taxes										**6 593**	**5 667**
Taxes										-1 054	-878
Net income										**5 539**	**4 789**
Additions to:											
- Property, plant and equipment[1]	*700*	*400*	*63*	*175*	*153*	*145*	*208*	*67*	*23*	*1 150*	*784*
- Goodwill and other intangibles[1]	*277*	*158*		*13*	*18*	*161*	*53*			*451*	*229*

(1) Excluding impact of business acquisitions

Consolidated income statements **Divisional segmentation** (unaudited)

Third quarter

	Pharmaceuticals Division		Vaccines and Diagnostics Division	Sandoz Division		Consumer Health Division		Corporate		Total	
	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m	Q3 2006 USD m	Q3 2005 USD m
Net sales to third parties	**5 776**	**5 093**	**374**	**1 425**	**1 486**	**1 909**	**1 836**			**9 484**	**8 415**
Sales to other Divisions	41	39	14	37	30	10	7	-102	-76		
Sales of Divisions	**5 817**	**5 132**	**388**	**1 462**	**1 516**	**1 919**	**1 843**	**-102**	**-76**	**9 484**	**8 415**
Other revenues	100	57	89	7	7	10	10			206	74
Cost of Goods Sold	-989	-808	-321	-875	-952	-799	-766	96	76	-2 888	-2 450
Of which amortization and impairments of product and patent rights and trademarks	*-60*	*-42*	*-79*	*-69*	*-82*	*-22*	*-17*			*-230*	*-141*
Gross profit	**4 928**	**4 381**	**156**	**594**	**571**	**1 130**	**1 087**	**-6**		**6 802**	**6 039**
Marketing & Sales	-1 746	-1 520	-46	-254	-273	-589	-600			-2 635	-2 393
Research & Development	-1 127	-934	-49	-120	-157	-74	-71	-45	-29	-1 415	-1 191
General & Administration	-164	-160	-29	-79	-77	-109	-106	-92	-85	-473	-428
Other income & expense	-112	-86	-22	-54	-30	-8	-20	5	-3	-191	-139
Of which amortization and impairments of capitalized intangibles included in function costs	*-50*	*-68*		*-6*	*-52*	*-12*	*-9*	*-3*	*-3*	*-71*	*-132*
Operating income	**1 779**	**1 681**	**10**	**87**	**34**	**350**	**290**	**-138**	**-117**	**2 088**	**1 888**
Income from associated companies										88	65
Financial income										72	98
Interest expense										-76	-80
Income before taxes										**2 172**	**1 971**
Taxes										-302	-305
Net income										**1 870**	**1 666**
Additions to:											
- Property, plant and equipment[1]	*301*	*161*	*36*	*62*	*52*	*60*	*70*	*28*	*9*	*487*	*292*
- Goodwill and other intangibles[1]	*6*	*53*		*2*	*10*	*25*	*17*			*33*	*80*

(1) Excluding impact of business acquisitions

Notes to the interim financial report for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 (unaudited)

1. Basis of preparation

This unaudited interim financial report containing condensed financial information for the three-month quarterly and nine-month year-to-date periods ended September 30, 2006, has been prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard 34 Interim Financial Reporting and with the accounting policies set out in the 2005 Annual Report, which was published on January 19, 2006.

2. Business combinations and other significant transactions

The following significant transactions occurred during 2006 and 2005:

2006

Corporate Chiron acquisition

On April 19, Chiron shareholders approved the acquisition of the remaining 56% of the shares of Chiron Corporation that Novartis did not already own for USD 48.00 per share. The amounts paid for the shares, related employee options and transaction costs totaled approximately USD 5.7 billion. The transaction was completed on April 20. Novartis has created a new division called Vaccines and Diagnostics consisting of two businesses: human vaccines named Novartis Vaccines and a diagnostics business named Chiron. Chiron s biopharmaceuticals activities were integrated into the Pharmaceuticals division.

For the period from January 1 to the date of acquisition, the prior 44% interest in Chiron has been accounted for using the equity method. The acquisition of the remaining 56% of this company has resulted in the requirement to revalue the initial 44% interest. The amount of this revaluation can only be finally determined once an external valuation has been completed later in 2006 to determine the value of the separable tangible and intangible net assets that have been acquired. A provisional revaluation of the initial 44% interest at September 30, 2006, increased consolidated equity by USD 0.6 billion.

Pharmaceuticals

As part of the Chiron transaction, which was completed on April 20 and discussed above, Chiron s pharmaceuticals activities have been integrated into the Pharmaceuticals division. Included in this portfolio are products for the treatment of cystic fibrosis, renal/skin cancer and skin infections. Chiron s early-stage research has been incorporated into the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR). For the period following the acquisition up to September 30, the income statement and cash flows from Chiron s pharmaceuticals activities have been consolidated into the division s results. These results, along with the balance sheet that has been consolidated, are provisional pending finalization of the purchase price allocation later in 2006. Provisional goodwill on this transaction at September 30, 2006, amounted to USD 1.5 billion.

On July 14, Novartis announced that its offer for the UK biopharmaceutical company NeuTec Pharma plc, which is specialized in hospital anti-infectives, became unconditional and the company has been consolidated from this date. Novartis paid a total consideration of GBP 328 million (USD 605 million) to fully acquire the company. NeuTec had no post-acquisition sales, although expenses and cash flows have been consolidated from the acquisition date. The balance sheet that has been consolidated is provisional pending finalization of the purchase price allocation, which is expected to be completed in 2006.

Vaccines and Diagnostics

For the period following the Chiron acquisition up to September 30, the income statement and cash flows from the vaccines and diagnostics activities have been consolidated into the division s results. These results, along with the balance sheet that has been consolidated, are provisional pending finalization of the purchase price allocation later in 2006. Provisional goodwill on this transaction at September 30, 2006, amounted to USD 1.6 billion.

Consumer Health

On February 17, Novartis announced the completion of the sale of its Nutrition & Santé unit, part of the Medical Nutrition Business Unit, for approximately USD 211 million to ABN AMRO Capital France, resulting in a divestment gain before taxes of USD 129 million.

2005

Sandoz

On June 6, Novartis completed the 100% acquisition of Hexal AG for USD 5.3 billion in cash, with the results and cash flows consolidated from that date. Goodwill on this transaction at September 30, 2006, amounted to USD 3.7 billion.

On July 20, Novartis completed the acquisition of 100% of Eon Labs, Inc. for a total cost of USD 2.6 billion, with the results and cash flows consolidated from that date. Goodwill on this transaction at September 30, 2006, amounted to USD 1.8 billion.

Consumer Health

On July 14, the Novartis OTC Business Unit announced the acquisition of the rights to produce and market a portfolio of over-the-counter (OTC) brands from Bristol-Myers Squibb Company sold principally in the US for USD 660 million in cash. The closing date for the North American product portfolio was August 31, 2005, with the results and cash flows consolidated from that date. Goodwill on this transaction at September 30, 2006, amounted to USD 49 million.

3. Principal currency translation rates

Nine months to September 30

	Average rates YTD 2006	Average rates YTD 2005	Period-end rates Sept 30, 2006	Period-end rates Sept 30, 2005
	USD	USD	USD	USD
1 CHF	**0.794**	0.816	**0.800**	0.772
1 EUR	**1.244**	1.264	**1.268**	1.203
1 GBP	**1.817**	1.844	**1.871**	1.760
100 JPY	**0.863**	0.929	**0.848**	0.883

Third quarter

	Average rates Q3 2006	Average rates Q3 2005	Period-end rates Sept 30, 2006	Period-end rates Sept 30, 2005
	USD	USD	USD	USD
1 CHF	**0.808**	0.785	**0.800**	0.772
1 EUR	**1.274**	1.220	**1.268**	1.203
1 GBP	**1.874**	1.784	**1.871**	1.760
100 JPY	**0.860**	0.899	**0.848**	0.883

4. Condensed consolidated change in liquidity

Nine months to September 30

	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Change
	USD m	USD m	USD m
Change in cash and cash equivalents	**-2 308**	**-2 551**	**243**
Change in marketable securities, financial debt and financial derivatives	-862	-3 441	2 579
Change in net liquidity	**-3 170**	**-5 992**	**2 822**
Net liquidity at January 1	2 479	7 037	-4 558

Net debt/liquidity at Sept 30	**-691**	**1 045**	**-1 736**

Third quarter

	Q3 2006	Q3 2005	Change
	USD m	USD m	USD m
Change in cash and cash equivalents	**1 563**	**-1 407**	**2 970**
Change in marketable securities, financial debt and financial derivatives	-138	706	-844
Change in net liquidity	**1 425**	**-701**	**2 126**
Net debt/liquidity at July 1	-2 116	1 746	-3 862
Net debt/liquidity at Sept 30	**-691**	**1 045**	**-1 736**

5. Legal proceedings update

A number of our affiliates are the subject of various legal proceedings that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of business. While we do not believe that any of them will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, litigation is inherently unpredictable and excessive verdicts do occur. As a consequence, we may in the future incur judgments or enter into settlements of claims that could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in any particular period.

The following non-exhaustive list reflects recent developments in legal proceedings:

Chiron Acquisition Litigation: At the fairness hearing on July 25, 2006, the court approved the April 3, 2006 agreement to settle all claims in the shareholder actions challenging the acquisition of Chiron by Novartis ending all litigation related to the acquisition.

Chiron *Fluvirin* Litigation: The securities fraud class action and shareholder derivative litigations that arose after announcement by Chiron in late 2004 that it was unable to deliver its *Fluvirin* influenza vaccine to the US market for the 2004/05 flu season have all been resolved in principle. The securities fraud class action was settled in April 2006. Once the memorandum of understanding has been executed, it will be submitted to court for approval. The shareholder derivative litigations have all been dismissed.

6. Significant differences between IFRS and US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (US GAAP)

The Group s consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS, which, as applied by the Group, differ in certain significant respects from US GAAP. The effects of the application of US GAAP to net income and equity are set out in the tables below. For further comments regarding the nature of these adjustments, please consult note 34 in the Novartis 2005 Annual Report.

	YTD 2006 USD m	YTD 2005 USD m
Net income under IFRS	**5 539**	**4 789**
US GAAP adjustments:		
Available-for-sale securities	-71	253
Inventory impairment reversal	94	33
Intangible assets	-781	-2 225
Property, plant and equipment	48	33
Pensions and other post-employment benefits	-129	-153
Deferred taxes	-180	105
Share-based compensation	-3	-43
Currency translation	-4	
Minority interests	-18	-9
Other		33
Total US GAAP adjustments	**-1 044**	**-1 973**
Net income under US GAAP	**4 495**	**2 816**
Basic earnings per share under US GAAP (USD)		