



***For Immediate Release***

**NOBEL LAUREATE THOMAS CECH JOINS MORGENTHAER AS SPECIAL ADVISOR**

**Boulder, Colorado. February 3, 2010.** Morgenthaler Ventures announced today the appointment of Thomas R. Cech, Ph.D. as a Special Advisor to Morgenthaler's Life Science Team. Dr. Cech was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1989 for being the first to show that RNA molecules are not restricted to being passive carriers of genetic information - they can have catalytic functions and participate in cellular reactions.

In 2000, Dr. Cech was named President of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Maryland, the nation's largest science philanthropy. He had served as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and Professor at the University of Colorado since 1988. The Institute plays a powerful role in advancing biomedical research and science education in the United States, spending a total of \$730 million for research in 2009 alone. Under Dr. Cech's leadership, the Institute experienced significant expansion and important innovation, including the opening of its first freestanding interdisciplinary research facility.

Dr. Cech stepped down as President of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in April 2009 and returned to Colorado to direct the University of Colorado's Initiative of Molecular Biotechnology. The Initiative's mission is to foster new research, teaching, and technology development at the intersection of life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, computational sciences and engineering.

In addition to his role at the University of Colorado, Dr. Cech has agreed to be a Special Advisor to Morgenthaler's Life Science Team, assisting Morgenthaler partners in the identification and review of new investment opportunities. "We are very pleased and honored to have Dr. Cech join our team, and believe that his vast network of scientific and academic contacts will be

complementary and extremely beneficial to us as we look for new life science opportunities,” said Dr. Ralph Christoffersen, head of the Morgenthaler Life Science Team.

### **About Morgenthaler Ventures**

Morgenthaler Ventures is a premier venture capital firm, dedicated to helping entrepreneurs build valuable companies for more than 40 years. The firm has \$3 billion under management, including \$400 million in its ninth fund which was capitalized in November of 2008. Morgenthaler has invested in approximately 300 companies in the life science and information technology sectors. Representative life science companies include: IPC – The Hospitalist Company, Ardian, OncoMed, Satiety, Catalyst Biosciences, Transcend, Galleon, Globelmmune, Moximed, SetPoint Medical, Promedior, Symphony Medical, Perclose, Intergrated Vascular Systems and Medaphis. Morgenthaler has offices in Menlo Park, CA, Boston, MA and Boulder, CO. More information can be found at [www.morgenthaler.com](http://www.morgenthaler.com).

### **Press Contact:**

Ching Wu  
Marketing Director, Morgenthaler Ventures  
650-388-7620  
[ching@morgenthaler.com](mailto:ching@morgenthaler.com)