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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DISCOVERY PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND CHROMA THERAPEUTICS  
ENTER INTO COLLABORATION FOR LEAD IDENTIFICATION ON MULTIPLE  
TARGETS**

**San Diego, CA – March 25, 2004** – Discovery Partners International, Inc. (NASDAQ: DP11) and Chroma Therapeutics Ltd announced today that they have entered into a collaboration focused on the discovery of potential new lead compounds against several selected targets. Chroma will provide the targets and DPI will use its comprehensive compound collection and its proprietary discovery processes and data management tools to identify potential lead compounds or potential lead series. Financial terms of the collaboration were not disclosed.

"We are very pleased that Chroma Therapeutics has chosen to collaborate with Discovery Partners to find new leads for their targets," stated Riccardo Pigliucci, CEO for Discovery Partners. "Our integrated drug discovery capabilities allow our partners to access a wide range of novel assay and screening technologies, as well as expertise that is applied to our large collection of proprietary compounds, increasing the likelihood of identifying promising new drug leads in a cost effective manner."

Ian Nicholson, CEO of Chroma Therapeutics, said: "Discovery Partners has impressed us with their track record in successfully screening against a diverse range of targets. The combination of their professional approach along with their extensive collection of drug-like leads provides us with confidence that we will rapidly identify novel new potential leads against our therapeutic targets."

**About Discovery Partners International**

Discovery Partners International, Inc. offers integrated services, products, and systems that span the drug discovery continuum, including target characterization, targeted and screening-library design and synthesis, high throughput and high content screening, lead generation and optimization, gene expression analysis, and protein crystallization. DPI has actively contributed to dozens of drug discovery collaborations. Discovery Partners International is headquartered in San Diego, California and has operations in the United States, Europe and India.

## **About Chroma Therapeutics**

Chroma Therapeutics, based in Oxford (UK), is a cancer drug discovery and development company focused in the field of chromatin biology, one of the most promising areas of cancer research today. Chroma has a diversified pipeline of chromatin-based programs with the potential to deliver a totally new class of targeted cancer agents, combining the efficacy of cytotoxics with the safety and tolerability of molecular-targeted agents. Chroma's lead development candidate, CHR-2797, entered Phase I clinical development in November 2004.

Statements in this press release that are not strictly historical are "forward-looking" statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and involve a high degree of risk and uncertainty. These include statements related to the collaboration's ability to utilize Discovery Partners' services, products and systems to identify potential lead compounds or potential lead series for Chroma Therapeutics. Discovery Partners' and Chroma's actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward looking statements due to risks and uncertainties that exist in their operations, collaborative relationships (including the alliance), development efforts and business environment, including risks and uncertainties more fully described in Discovery Partners' annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and Discovery Partners' other SEC reports.