

Edgar Filing: AVENTIS - Form 425

AVENTIS  
Form 425  
February 17, 2004

Filed by Sanofi-Synthelabo  
Pursuant to Rule 135 and Rule 425(b) under the  
United States Securities Act of 1933,  
as amended, and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b)(2) of the  
United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended

Subject Company: Aventis  
Commission File No. 001-10378  
Date: February 17, 2004

ON FEBRUARY 16, 2004, THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT WAS PUBLISHED ON  
BEHALF OF SANOFI-SYNTHELABO IN FORTUNE (EUROPEAN EDITION).

\* \* \* \*

WE REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT  
WE CANNOT DEVELOP MEDICINES  
FOR TOMORROW JUST BECAUSE OF OUR SIZE.

[Image of young girl looking upward]

Out of every 100,000 molecules screened only one becomes a new drug. Research is a major investment: it takes an average of 12 years and 800 million euros to obtain a medicine. That is why teaming up with Aventis will help us deliver more effective solutions to meet patients' needs. Together, we will harness our complementary skills to create a leading pharmaceutical group (No.1 in Europe and No.3 worldwide) committed to improving healthcare and capable of driving strong, sustainable and profitable growth.

SANOFI-SYNTHELABO'S OFFER TO AVENTIS'S SHAREHOLDERS  
BECAUSE HEALTH MATTERS

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to sell, or an offer to purchase, any securities

[www.sanofi-synthelabo.com](http://www.sanofi-synthelabo.com)