



NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TSX: AMF

## **AMORFIX AWARDED “LIFE SCIENCE COMPANY OF THE YEAR” FOR MOVING INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS INTO COMMERCIALIZATION**

**TORONTO**, Ontario – January 20, 2009 – Amorfix Life Sciences Ltd. has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the “Life Science Company of the Year” by The Biotechnology Initiative. Amorfix was selected because of its pioneering approaches to innovative diagnostic and therapeutic products for brain-wasting diseases, including Alzheimer’s Disease (AD), Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig’s Disease), Parkinson’s Disease (PD) and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) for global markets.

“We are honoured to have been selected by The Biotechnology Initiative, and pleased that Amorfix has been identified for its excellence in taking technologies from the bench to the global market. Our vCJD blood test, uniquely designed for living subjects, will lead to immediate protection of the blood supply, and longer term more effective treatments for these baffling diseases,” said Dr. George Adams, President and CEO of Amorfix.

“Ontario is strong when it comes to innovative life sciences companies that are globally competitive. Ontario-based companies like Amorfix are working to quickly move their ideas and world-class research into the global marketplace. That means good jobs for Ontario and hope for people and families suffering from diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s,” said Ontario Minister of Research and Innovation, John Wilkinson. “I commend The Biotechnology Initiative for rewarding research and commercialization excellence -- and congratulate Amorfix for winning this year’s award.”

### **Diagnostic Tests**

Amorfix’s lead product is a blood test for vCJD to screen blood for transfusions. People infected with vCJD, or “carriers”, have infectious blood, but may not show symptoms for many years – sometimes as few as 10 years, but perhaps as many as 40 or 50 years. It is important to identify carriers who test positive to ensure that the disease is not spread through donation of blood or organs, or through the re-use of surgical instruments.

Amorfix is clearly in the lead in the race to commercialize a vCJD test. “Our test has been shown to be 100% sensitive and 99.94% specific based on studies of U.K. and France blood donor samples. It must be sensitive to not miss infected donations and it must be specific to minimize false positives,” added Dr. Adams.

The same approach used in the vCJD test can be applied to develop diagnostic tests for the other misfolded protein diseases such as AD, PD, and ALS.

## Therapeutic Treatments

Amorfix has successfully demonstrated its treatments for ALS in preclinical models to its partner Biogen Idec, a world leader in biotechnology that has therapies for various diseases already on the market. The same molecule known to misfold in ALS disease was detected in Alzheimer's disease patients and so the therapies Amorfix developed for ALS are now being tested in Alzheimer's animal models. Amorfix and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research are funding the Alzheimer's research in Dr. Neil Cashman's laboratory at the University of British Columbia.

## About The Biotechnology Initiative

The Biotechnology Initiative represents and promotes life sciences technologies and encourages their commercial success in Ontario through Government advocacy, stakeholder engagement, mentoring and education and promotion of Ontario's world-class science and industry.

## About Amorfix

Amorfix Life Sciences Ltd. (TSX:AMF) is a theranostics company developing therapeutic products and diagnostic devices targeting brain-wasting diseases including ALS, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD). Amorfix's proprietary Epitope Protection™ (EP) technology enables it to specifically identify very low levels of aggregated misfolded proteins (AMP) in a sample of normal protein. Aggregated misfolded proteins are a common element of many brain wasting diseases and the ability to identify AMPs and understand their structure and mechanism of folding are the first steps to developing new treatments for these devastating diseases. Amorfix's lead programs are a diagnostic blood screening test for vCJD and a therapy for ALS.

*This information release may contain certain forward-looking information. Such information involves known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from those implied by statements herein, and therefore these statements should not be read as guarantees of future performance or results. All forward-looking statements are based on the Company's current beliefs as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to it as well as other factors. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release. Due to risks and uncertainties, including the risks and uncertainties identified by the Company in its public securities filings, actual events may differ materially from current expectations. The Company disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.*

- 30 -

## For more information, please contact:

Dr. George Adams President & Chief Executive Officer Amorfix Life Sciences Ltd. Tel: (416) 847-6959 Fax: (416) 847-6899 george.adams@amorfix.com	James Parsons Chief Financial Officer Amorfix Life Sciences Ltd. Tel: (416) 847-6929 Fax: (416) 847-6899 james.parsons@amorfix.com
---	---

## Notes to Editors:

Go to <http://ontbi.org/AboutTBI> for more information on The Biotechnology Initiative.

Go to [www.amorfix.com](http://www.amorfix.com) for more information on Amorfix.