



History of Sandoz

- 1886** The Chemical Company Kern & Sandoz is set up in Basel, Switzerland, by Dr. Alfred Kern (1850-1893) and Edouard Sandoz (1853-1928). The first dyes produced are alizarin blue and auramine.
- 1895** Production of the first pharmaceutical substance, antipyrine, a fever-controlling-agent. The partnership is transformed into a joint-stock company "Chemische Fabrik vormals Sandoz."
- 1899** First diversification into sweetening agents; start of saccharin production.
- 1917** Creation of the Pharmaceutical Department by Prof. Arthur Stoll (1887-1971) and start of pharmaceutical research.
- 1918** Arthur Stoll isolates Ergotamin from the corn-fungus ergot. It is introduced under the trade name Gynergen in 1921.
- 1929** Introduction of Calcium Sandoz, a breakthrough-product that lays the foundation for modern calcium therapy. The Chemicals Department (chemicals for textiles, leather and paper) is set up.
- 1939** First steps into Agribusiness; the first product developed is the pesticide Copper Sandoz, introduced in 1943.
- 1958** Introduction of the neuroleptic drug Melleril, a milestone in the history of psychotropic pharmaceuticals.
- 1963** Acquisition of Biochemie GmbH in Kundl, Austria. Large scale production of antibiotics and substances developed on the basis of biotechnology.
- 1964** First research center outside Switzerland in East Hanover, N.J., followed by the Sandoz Research Institute in Vienna, Austria, in 1970 and the Sandoz Institute for Medical Research in London in 1985.
- 1967** Merger with Wander Ltd. and diversification into the dietetics business (Ovaltine, Isostar), followed by the acquisition of Delmark in 1972, Wasa, the Swedish crisp bread producer, in 1982 and Gerber Babyfood in 1994.

- 1975** Advance into the seeds market with the acquisition of the American Rogers Seed Co., followed by the acquisition of Northrup King in 1976, the Dutch Zaadunie Group in 1980 and the Swedish seeds company Hillehög in 1989.
- 1977** Introduction of the anti-allergic drug Zaditen.
- 1982** Introduction of the immunosuppressant Sandimmun, followed by Neoral in 1994.
- 1996** Sandoz merges with Ciba Geigy to form Novartis. The core businesses are in pharmaceuticals, consumer health, generics, eye care and animal health. Novartis is derived from the Latin “novae artes,” meaning "new skills," and reflects our commitment to focus on research and development to bring innovative new products to the communities we serve.
- 2003** The 14 companies of Novartis Generics rebrand to one common name, Sandoz. The rebranding marks the return of this time-honored name.