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# Third Carl Icahn Nominee Is Named to Board at Biogen

By REUTERS  
Published: March 22, 2010

BOSTON (Reuters) — [Biogen Idec](#), the biotechnology company, said on Monday that it had come to an agreement with the investor [Carl C. Icahn](#) under which Mr. Icahn would abandon his threatened proxy fight in return for Biogen's acceptance of a nominee to its board.

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The agreement brings the number of Icahn representatives on Biogen's board to three and heads off what would have been Mr. Icahn's third proxy contest in three years at the company.

Biogen, which makes the multiple sclerosis drugs [Tysabri](#) and [Avonex](#), is one of the world's biggest biotechnology companies, with revenue of \$4.4 billion in 2009. Tysabri, its most important product, is made in a 50-50 partnership with the Irish drug maker [Elan](#).

In 2007, under pressure from Mr. Icahn, Biogen put itself up for sale but failed to find a buyer. The next year, Mr. Icahn started an unsuccessful effort to place three directors on the board.

Undeterred, Mr. Icahn circled back last year and investors voted in two of his representatives: Alexander J. Denner, managing director of Icahn Partners, and Richard C. Mulligan, a professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School.

Biogen has now agreed to accept Eric K. Rowinsky, a cancer specialist, who was part of the Icahn team — along with Mr. Denner and Mr. Mulligan — who took control of the biotechnology company ImClone Systems in 2006. Mr. Icahn sold ImClone to [Eli Lilly](#) in 2008 for \$6.5 billion.

[Biogen also named](#) Stephen A. Sherwin to its board. Mr. Sherwin is a founder and chairman of the biotechnology company Ceregene. He previously worked at Genentech, now owned by [Roche Holding](#), in jobs that included vice president for clinical research. He is currently chairman of the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

A version of this article appeared in print on March 23, 2010, on page B4 of the New York edition.

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