



**New York, NY, June 15, 2010-** Meridian Equity Partners, Inc. is pleased to announce that Brian Lian, Ph.D. has joined the firm as Managing Director, Healthcare Research. Brian comes to us from The Agave Group LLC, a New York-based research boutique and has 7 years of experience covering the healthcare sector. From 2003 to 2008, he covered biotechnology and specialty pharmaceutical companies, most recently as Executive Director and Senior Biotechnology Analyst at Oppenheimer & Co. Prior to Oppenheimer, he was Executive Director and Senior Biotechnology Analyst at CIBC World Markets. Prior to CIBC, he was Senior Research Analyst for Biotechnology at Fortis Bank. In 2008 he founded The Agave Group, a healthcare research platform to serve portfolio managers, analysts, traders, and corporate clients.

Prior to becoming an equity analyst, Brian was a research scientist with Amgen, where he worked on discovery research projects in cancer and bone disease. Prior to Amgen, he was a research scientist at Microcide Pharmaceuticals, where he worked in collaboration with Pfizer to identify novel classes of antibiotics. He has co-authored research in organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, biochemistry, and chemical physics, and has contributed to texts in organic and advanced organic chemistry. Brian received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from The University of Michigan. He received his MBA in Finance and Accounting from Indiana University, and holds a BA in Chemistry from Whitman College.

Brian's research will allow Meridian to provide a variety of healthcare product offerings, including:

- **The Weekly Shot:** A weekly healthcare event and catalyst preview. Issues focus on Biotech, Pharma, and Specialty Pharma/Generics.
- **Monthly catalyst planners:** Non-earnings related events in healthcare (drug approval dates, FDA meetings, healthcare meetings, banking conferences).
- **Quarterly drug approval guides:** Quarterly updates for new drug approval dates, including revenue expectations and potential share price moves.
- **Quarterly valuation updates:** Small/Mid/Large cap issues highlighting current valuation.
- **Special topics pieces:** Cancer valuations, Biotech takeout candidates, etc.... Wide range of issues depending on newsflow and client interest.
- **Consulting/Screening/Client projects:** Per specific request, leveraging proprietary models for special projects.