

# Drug Maker Sanofi Fires CEO



Sanofi is one of the world's top pharmaceutical companies, has fired CEO Christopher A. Viehbacher amid tensions over the company's international strategy.

*The New York Times* reported that Serge Weinberg, the chairman, will serve as chief executive until a replacement is found.

Viehbacher focused the French company more on international business. He also was a major force in Sanofi's embrace of biotechnology, helping engineer the takeover of Genzyme, an American biotechnology company, for \$20.1 billion – a deal widely seen as a success for Sanofi.

That acquisition gave Sanofi a presence in the Boston area, a hot spot for pharmaceutical research because of the universities and biotechnology companies there. He made efforts to shift more of Sanofi's research there and personally moved to Boston this year, *the Times* reported.

But those actions led to dissatisfaction among labor unions and some government officials in France, who were concerned about a loss of jobs in their country.

**Read the story.**