

Business

Collaborations

Epigenomics collaborates with Biogen Idec in oncology

Epigenomics AG, a diagnostic company that develops tests based on DNA methylation, has announced a collaboration to develop biomarkers for use in an oncology programme in conjunction with Biogen Idec. Drug efficacy will be determined by examination of candidate biomarkers using the Epigenomics' DNA methylation technology. Epigenomics will receive R&D funding and the opportunity to participate in developing a potential pharmacodiagnostic product as part of the collaborative deal.

Christian Piepenbronk, CIO of Epigenomics said: 'A growing number of companies appreciate that some of the new biological drugs in development may benefit from an accompanying test to help identify those patients that will likely respond best to treatment. In recent months, Epigenomics has signed collaborations with several large pharmaceutical/biotech companies such as Biogen Idec to evaluate our DNA methylation tests for oncology applications.'

Epigenomics is a company focusing on the development of novel compounds for cancer. Their products can potentially identify cancer at very early stages and help guide therapeutic approach. It collaborates with Roche Diagnostics on the development of diagnostic and pharmacodiagnostic products in cancer. The company headquarters are in Berlin and they have a wholly owned subsidiary in Seattle, USA.

Cellzome signs deal with Novartis

Cellzome has announced the details of a collaboration of a deal with Novartis. As a result of the agreement, Novartis will make a substantial equity investment in Cellzome and will provide funding for research for two years with an option of extending the collaboration for a further two years. In addition, there will be lead compound development options for both companies in exchange for licenses, milestone payments and royalties.

Jeff Porter, Global Head of Novartis' Developmental and Molecular Pathways

group commented: 'Cellzome's drug proteomics platform is a perfect complement to our pathway-focused discovery efforts at Novartis. We're very enthusiastic about initiating this alliance.' In response, the CEO of Cellzome, Tim Edwards, said: 'We are delighted to be working with Novartis. This partnership represents a significant collaboration for us and is a solid endorsement of Cellzome's approach to drug discovery. By working with Novartis, we are able to demonstrate our ability to leverage our technology platform to accelerate drug discovery.'

Cellzome was founded in May 2000 at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). It has about 90 employees, in offices in Heidelberg and Cambridge, UK. They have a number of research collaborations with companies such as Bayer and Johnson & Johnson.

Global Genomics to collaborate with Rheosience A/S

Global Genomics has announced the details of a collaboration with Rheosience A/S based upon the use of tangerine® gene

expression profiling. The collaboration will be focused upon targets in metabolic diseases.

The CEO of Global Genomics, Ulf Boberg, commenting on the collaboration, said: 'This agreement is yet another confirmation of that researchers are demanding gene expression technologies that provide higher quality information. We are very excited about expanding our customer base and broadening customer awareness.'

Rheosience is based in Denmark and is an independent biotech company. It has unique animal models of the metabolic syndrome. Its staff include internationally recognised experts in the field of obesity and diabetes. Global Genomics, based in Stockholm, is involved with the development and out-licensing of tools based upon its extensive functional genomics expertise. This strength has resulted in the recent launch of tangerine® gene expression profiling, which shows the whole genome expression profile in a single experiment.

Business was written by
Steve Carney

People

Appointments

Glen A. Fine to join NCCLS as Executive Vice President

Glen Fine, currently Vice President of Ethics, Regulatory Compliance and Privacy for MDS laboratories is to join NCCLS as Executive Vice President with responsibility for the strategic, administrative, marketing and financial management of the organisation. Fine moves from MDS laboratories, where he was Vice President of operations.

Fine's appointment marks the successful completion of a year-long search, and he was keen to comment that 'I am excited to join NCCLS, an organisation which enjoys an outstanding reputation for quality in all of its products and services'. He joins at an exciting time in the history of NCCLS in

that, from 1st January 2005 the organisation will be changing its name to become the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. Fine continued, stating: 'With the upcoming name change to CLSI, to reflect an ambitious growth agenda beyond its traditional boundaries, I am delighted to be part of the organisation at such an exciting time in its history'.

Thomas L. Hearn, NCCLS President, was enthusiastic about the new appointment, stating: 'Mr Fine and NCCLS is a very good match. Mr Fine's experience in management, marketing and finance, and his results-oriented approach and style bode well for NCCLS. I am confident that, with his leadership, NCCLS will become even more prominent as the world's finest clinical and laboratory standards-development organisation.'