

## Business

### Collaborations

#### Beyond Genomics and AstraZeneca: systems biology and predictive toxic

Beyond Genomics (BG; <http://www.beyondgenomics.com>) has entered into a pilot agreement with AstraZeneca (AZ; <http://www.astrazeneca.com>) to apply its systems biology expertise to the area of predictive toxicity.

Beyond Genomics will use its proprietary Systems Biology platforms and Biosystematics™ informatics tools to analyze and integrate transcript, protein and metabolite data in a study designed to discover biomarkers of drug-inducing toxicity.

Muz Mansuri, Executive Chairman of Beyond Genomics, explained: 'By partnering with AstraZeneca... in the important area of toxicology, we can demonstrate that BG's Systems Biology approach delivers critical knowledge that can be applied to reduce development costs and advance drugs with improved safety profiles.'

Beyond Genomics is an emerging biotechnology company that applies its proprietary systems biology platforms to develop novel therapeutics and biomarkers.

#### Boehringer Ingelheim in multi-target drug discovery collaboration with Morphochem

Morphochem (<http://www.morphochem>) has entered into a collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim (<http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com>), where Morphochem will apply its drug discovery engine MOREsystem™ to the discovery and optimization of novel structures with activity against several undisclosed novel human targets.

Peter Seuffer-Wasserthal, Vice President, Business Development, at Morphochem, commented: 'We are very pleased to collaborate with Boehringer Ingelheim and to contribute towards their drug discovery and development programs. This collaboration endorses the value of our novel approach. Compounds can be checked for fit with a target and then further refined using evolutionary algorithms so that potential drug candidates can be pre-optimized for biological activity and drug potential before synthesis is started.'

### Opening

#### First German modelling and simulation centre opens

The first German centre for modelling and simulation in the life sciences (BIOMS) has opened in Heidelberg. At this new centre, complex biological processes will be studied *in vivo*, *in vitro* and *in silico*.

This joint project involves: the German Cancer research Center, EML Research (the research institute of the Klaus Tschira Foundation), EMBL, the Max Planck Institute of Molecular research and the University of Heidelberg.

The Klaus Tschira Foundation provides 2.5 million Euros to finance one-third of the Centre; another third comes from the state of Baden-Württemberg, while the rest is contributed by the university and the participating research institutes. Funding is assured for 5 years.

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## People

### Appointments

#### Iceland Genomics appoints new President and CEO

Iceland Genomics Corporation (IGC; <http://www.uvs.is>) has appointed Dana B. Hosseini as President and Chief Executive Officer. Hosseini has also been designated a member of their Board of Directors. IGC is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to using the unique advantages of the Icelandic population in the search for new weapons against cancer.

Prior to his appointments at IGC, Hosseini served as Vice President, Business Development for CynTellect, and Director,

Business Development at Sequenom. On his appointment, Hosseini commented: '...IGC is the only company that I know of that can use a true population approach to understanding the genetic causes of cancer as they relate to clinical outcomes. We are well positioned to discovery.'

Robert Wessman, Chairman of IGC, said: 'Dana Hosseini is an outstanding executive who has gained a wealth of experience helping small biotechnology companies manage the change from a R&D organization to a commercial, revenue-generating organization through collaborations and partnerships. We believe Dana will be instrumental in accelerating Iceland Genomic's

growth and developing a sustainable profitable business.'

#### Elma S. Hawkins appointed President and CEO of ADVR

Advanced Viral Research Corporation (ADVR; <http://www.adviral.com>) has appointed Elma S. Hawkins as President and CEO. She will also continue to serve on the Board of Directors, a position she has held since December 2003.

Hawkins was most recently Vice Chairman of Antigenics, before which she served in several senior positions in corporate development, strategic planning, and regulatory and clinical affairs at