



DOMAINEX LTD

Domainex lead optimisation services facilitate a new cancer drug discovery programme

Collaboration with The Institute of Cancer Research advances drug research

7th April 2010, London and Cambridge, UK: Domainex Ltd, specialists in drug discovery solutions, and a research team at The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), have today unveiled a new development in their collaboration to find a new treatment for breast cancer. Domainex is now set to provide lead optimisation services alongside the work being undertaken at the ICR.

Scientists led by the ICR's Professor Alan Ashworth of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre, working in close collaboration with Domainex, have discovered drug-like compounds that inhibit an enzyme from the PARP superfamily, whose expression leads to the survival of breast cancer cells. The programme recently received a £4 million research grant under the Wellcome Trust's Seeding Drug Discovery initiative to finance its implementation.

Domainex will apply its novel *LeadBuilder* virtual screening technology to design and select chemical compounds suitable for rapid progression. Furthermore, the company will apply its medicinal chemistry expertise to assist the ICR team to develop drug candidates for progression into clinical trials.

Founded in 2002, Domainex specializes in the provision of protein science and medicinal chemistry services to large pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies as well as academic research groups. The company is also developing a pipeline of pre-clinical drugs and targets.

Eddy Littler, Chief Executive Officer of Domainex, commented: “We are very pleased to be working with the team at the ICR who have unrivalled expertise in the study and treatment of cancer. The successful prosecution of this project, combined with our other Wellcome Trust funded collaboration with St Georges Hospital Medical School and the University of Manchester, demonstrates the value of Domainex’s core expertise in both computational and medicinal chemistry. These two projects, together with other work that we are undertaking, illustrate our strong commitment to the support of translational research in academia. The dual combination of the *LeadBuilder* platform and our medicinal chemistry expertise creates a powerful drug discovery tool.”

Professor Alan Ashworth said: “We are delighted that the research programme is progressing well and look forward to our scientists continuing to work closely with Domainex, utilising its innovative technologies and skilled staff, in combination with our own expertise, for discovery of improved cancer treatments”.

The ICR’s Director of Enterprise Dr Susan Bright added: “Today’s announcement is very encouraging and illustrates why the research programme warranted the £4 million grant awarded by the Wellcome Trust. We shall continue to work closely with our collaborative partners in the implementation of the next phase of the project. Another step forward has been taken in specialist drug discovery geared to enhancing the treatment of cancer”.

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Editors Notes

About Domainex

Domainex is a drug discovery company that provides services, including computational and medicinal chemistry, gene cloning and expression, to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and to academic research groups. It also offers a unique propriety technology known as Combinatorial Domain Hunting which is a patented method for expressing difficult protein targets. LeadBuilder is the proprietary lead generation platform that has been developed by Domainex to

provide unusually rapid and cost-effective access to high-quality hits. As such, it is particularly well-suited to the needs of groups engaged in Translational Research, and emerging biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. Domainex is also developing a pipeline of pre-clinical drugs.

Domainex is based on the Cambridge Science Park, England and has offices in the London Bioscience Innovation Centre.

For more information see: www.domainex.co.uk.

Editors Notes

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The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR)

- The ICR is Europe's leading cancer research centre
- The ICR has been ranked the UK's top academic research centre, based on the results of the Higher Education Funding Council's Research Assessment Exercise
- The ICR works closely with partner The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust to ensure patients immediately benefit from new research. Together the two organisations form the largest comprehensive cancer centre in Europe
- The ICR has charitable status and relies on voluntary income, spending 95 pence in every pound of total income directly on research
- As a college of the University of London, the ICR also provides postgraduate higher education of international distinction
- Over its 100-year history, the ICR's achievements include identifying the potential link between smoking and lung cancer which was subsequently confirmed, discovering that DNA damage is the basic cause of cancer and isolating more cancer-related genes than any other organisation in the world
- The ICR is home to the world's leading academic cancer drug development team. Several important anti-cancer drugs used worldwide were synthesised at the ICR and it has discovered an average of two preclinical candidates each year over the past five years

For more information visit www.icr.ac.uk

About Breakthrough Breast Cancer

- Breakthrough Breast Cancer is a pioneering charity dedicated to the prevention, treatment and ultimate eradication of breast cancer through research, campaigning and education.
- The charity funds ground-breaking research, campaign for better services and treatments and raise awareness of breast cancer. Through this work the charity believes passionately that breast cancer can be beaten and the fear of the disease removed for good. Find more information at breakthrough.org.uk

About the Wellcome Trust

The [Wellcome Trust](#) is the largest charity in the UK. It funds innovative biomedical research, in the UK and internationally, spending over £600 million each year to support the brightest scientists with the best ideas. The Wellcome Trust supports public debate about biomedical research and its impact on health and wellbeing.