

Protagen and NMI announce Co-Development of Multiplex Assays

Dortmund, Germany, March 15, 2012. Protagen AG, a specialist in in-vitro diagnostics and the Natural and Medical Sciences Institute at the University of Tübingen (NMI), have announced the signing of an agreement for joint development of multiplex assays for the diagnosis of autoimmune diseases and cancer. The planned long-term partnership is based on results from pilot studies from the past two years and focuses on the development of customized assays for personalized medicine.

"Protagen has a unique expertise in high-throughput expression of human proteins and the conduct of clinical validation studies for serum biomarkers. We also have an excellent network of internationally renowned clinical partners in the relevant indication areas ", explains Dr. Peter Schulz-Knappe, CSO and Executive Vice President of Diagnostics at Protagen. "Based on consistent enhancements of the UNIarray[®] concept and formation of a top-class partner network Protagen managed to position itself as an ideal partner for pharma and biotech drug developers."

Professor Hugo Hämmerle, NMI, is also pleased with the intensification of the cooperation: "For several years our focus has been on development of testing systems using planar and bead-based protein microarrays. The competence and capability of our research platform was already validated by a number of projects with international partners from industry and academia. The cooperation with Protagen allows us to collaborate on the commercialization of assays for personalized medicine."

About Protagen AG

Protagen (www.protagen.com) is an internationally leading specialist in the field of in vitro diagnostics and GMP-compliant protein analysis. The business unit Diagnostics employs its proprietary UNIarray[®] technology to develop diagnostic tests and for collaborations with pharmaceutical and biotech companies in the field of personalized medicine. The business unit Protein Services is a world leading service provider of GMP-compliant characterization and comparability studies of biotherapeutics and biosimilars.

About NMI, Natural and Medical Sciences Institute at the University of Tübingen, Reutlingen

The NMI (www.nmi.de) is an application-oriented research institute that makes the results of scientific study available to industry. The interdisciplinary approach of the NMI includes basic research as well as practical problem solving in the form of applied research and development, consultancy, testing, measuring and analysis, scientific studies, and implementation in the fields of pharma- and biotechnology, biomedical technology as well as surface and interface technologies. The NMI makes use of interdisciplinary know-how, modern equipment, quality management processes and a network of companies including various branches of industry, in particular the life sciences.

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