



CELLUMEN AND ALZHEIMER'S DRUG DISCOVERY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE NEW NOVEL ALZHEIMER'S SCREENING TOOL

Advanced Protein:Protein Interaction Biosensor Now Available for Drug Screening

Pittsburgh, PA, April 2, 2009 – Cellumen today announced the commercial availability of a novel pharmaceutical screening technology to help discover new drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease. This technology was jointly developed by Cellumen and the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF).

ADDF provided support for the development of novel tools for drug discovery applications, including cellular models of disease and biosensors that allow for sensitive detection of the interaction between two proteins involved in Alzheimer's disease, CDK5 and p25.

When p25 interacts with CDK5, the activity of CDK5 is increased, initiating a downstream cascade that may promote tangle formation within the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients. This protein:protein interaction biosensor can be used to screen for drugs that disrupt the interaction between these two proteins. A biosensor for CDK5 and an upstream activator, p35, has also been developed to serve as a selectivity screen so that drugs that specifically target the CDK5:p25 interaction can be found.

This novel biosensor has relevance to several neurodegenerative diseases associated with inappropriate regulation of CDK5 activity and tangle formation.

"Cellumen is grateful for the support of the ADDF and for the opportunity to develop products and applications for important targets that have been difficult to screen with traditional drug discovery methodology" says Kate Johnston, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer of Cellumen.

"Developing novel tools for Alzheimer's disease drug discovery will have a significant impact on treatment development for the disease," said Howard Fillit, MD, Executive Director, ADDF. "Cellumen's biosensor is an important advance to the field and we are excited about the possible applications."

About Cellumen

Cellumen is the leading collaborative partner and outsource service provider for the continuum of cell-based drug discovery and discovery toxicology solutions. Through its [CellCiphr® CSB™ Toxicity Profiling Services](#), Cellumen can predict the safest, most effective drugs in the drug discovery process, and as a result, reduce drug failure rates and cut development costs. Leading global organizations, including top pharmaceutical companies, the EPA, FDA, and NIH, partner with Cellumen. Cellumen is a partner company of [Safeguard Scientifics](#). Other investors include Novitas Capital, the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse and Innovation Works. For more information about Cellumen, please visit www.cellumen.com.

About Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation

ADDF is the only public charity whose sole mission is to accelerate the discovery and development of drugs to prevent, treat and cure Alzheimer's disease, related dementias and cognitive aging. We award grants to leading scientists conducting breakthrough drug discovery research.

ADDF uses a venture philanthropy model to bridge the worldwide funding gap between basic research and later-stage development, using any return on investment to support new research. Since 1998, we have received over 1,600 requests to fund new ideas for Alzheimer's drugs. For all, we provided expert reviews and recommendations to advance their programs. We granted more than \$35M to fund over 240 Alzheimer's drug discovery programs in academic centers and biotechnology companies in 12 countries. For more information, visit our website at www.alzdiscovery.org.

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