



## **PA Early Stage Makes Series A Investment in Cellumen**

### **Company focused on Cell-Based Drug Discovery and non-coding RNA**

Pittsburgh, PA - June 20, 2005 - PA Early Stage Partners, a family of venture funds that makes investments in early stage life sciences and technology companies, announced today that it has made a Series A investment in Cellumen, a systems cell biology company focused on measuring and manipulating proteins and coding and non-coding RNA in cells. The Pittsburgh (PA) - based company was founded by D. Lansing Taylor, Ph.D., who previously launched successful biotech companies - Biological Detection Systems, Inc. (BDS) and Cellomics, Inc.

"Cellumen is in an exciting position to be the leader in applying advanced high content screening to the early drug discovery process," stated Paul Schmitt, Managing Director of PA Early Stage. "The expertise of the founders coupled with the new technologies being applied in the reagent and cell arena promises to have a major impact on drug discovery."

Cellumen is forming discovery partnerships with the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries using high content screening (HCS) with existing and advanced cell-based reagents and cell lines.

"There is now the opportunity to fully harness HCS and to perform large-scale screens to both manipulate and measure cell constituents and functions," stated Taylor, Cellumen's Chief Executive Officer. "There is a major bottleneck in the advances in all life science markets from the need to understand the functions of genes, the protein molecular machines they encode, as well as non-coding, regulatory RNAs that are involved in normal and abnormal cell functions. We already have agreements with multiple pharmaceutical companies and have plans to be the preferred partner in applying advanced HCS to discovery challenges."

Cellumen is the second investment made in as many months by PA Early Stage in a Pittsburgh-based company. Earlier in the year, PA Early Stage closed on an investment in Renal Solutions, a medical device and health-care service company that is developing solutions for the home and acute hemodialysis markets.

### **About Cellumen**

Cellumen is a systems cell biology company that is focused on defining the functions of genes, coding and non-coding RNA's, proteins and other cellular constituents that regulate and perform the myriad of functions that define normal life and are related to specific disease processes as potential biomarkers and/or targets for drug discovery and patient profiling. Cellumen uses multiple High Content Screening (HCS) platforms with a wide range of both commercially available and proprietary reagents to create multiplexed assays to define pathways, identify potential molecular biomarkers of disease, perform screens and to explore applications of HCS and molecular imaging for the whole process of drug discovery from target ID through clinical trial support. Cellumen can be found on the internet at [www.cellumen.com](http://www.cellumen.com)

### **About PA Early Stage Partners**

PA Early Stage Partners, headquartered in Wayne, Pennsylvania and founded in 1997, is a family of venture funds that makes investment in early stage life sciences and technology companies. With over \$235 million under management, PA Early Stage invests in companies that are primarily based in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a focus on Pennsylvania. The Fund can be found on the internet at [www.paearylstage.com](http://www.paearylstage.com).