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Affinium Pharmaceuticals reports first large scale analysis of bacterial protein complexes

Essential protein interactions will provide insights into bacterial antibiotic resistance and facilitate development of new antibiotics

TORONTO, CANADA (February 2, 2005) – Affinium Pharmaceuticals, a structure guided drug discovery company focused on the development and commercialization of anti-infective medicines, announced today that a team of scientists, led by Affinium co-founder Dr. Jack Greenblatt, have successfully tagged a total of 847 proteins, including 198 of the most highly conserved, soluble non-ribosomal proteins essential for life in at least one bacterial species. Importantly, the interaction network containing conserved and essential protein complexes in *Escherichia coli* was uncovered and validated by sequential rounds of tagging and purification. The protein network includes many new and insightful interactions in pathways attacked by current antibiotics.

The project, supported by funds from the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund, and undertaken jointly by Affinium, the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children is reported in the February 3, 2005 edition of the scientific journal *Nature*.

Eighty-five per cent of the validated interactions are significant, novel interactions, and many other informative complexes were detected. These data will be used to facilitate the design of antibiotics for the treatment of serious infectious diseases.

Dr. Jack Greenblatt said, “This study yields invaluable insight into the function of uncharacterized bacterial proteins, and creates a novel foundation for the design of antimicrobials. As well, the collaborative work of Affinium scientists and scientists from the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children provides a model of teamwork across academic institutions and private industry to achieve accelerated breakthroughs in science and medicine.”

Affinium Pharmaceuticals is a structure guided drug discovery and development company. The Company’s proprietary, integrated R&D engine enables rapid advancement of internal and partnered small molecule programs. Affinium’s pharmaceutical pipeline includes over 400 proprietary targets, novel classes of anti-infective compounds, and proprietary programs in the areas of infectious and other human disease. Partners and collaborators of Affinium include multinational pharmaceutical companies, such as Pfizer. Investors in the Company include Genesys Capital Partners, Lombard Odier Danier Hentsch & Cie, Schweizerhall Investments, and HBM Partners.

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