



Metabolomic Technologies Inc. Develops Next Generation Diagnostic Platform with Alberta Partners

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada – October 15, 2013

Metabolomic Technologies Inc. (MTI), a developer of advanced metabolomic-based diagnostics for complex diseases, announces that they have secured a \$250,000 grant from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP). The grant, to be distributed over two years, will support the commercialization of a new urine-based diagnostic test for pre-cancerous polyps, PolypDx™. The funding will take a validated PolypDx™ test to a more cost-effective and readily available platform for clinical use. This follows the announcement of MTI's collaboration with **BGI in Shenzhen, China**, and **Alberta Health Services and DynaLIFEDx in Alberta**.

As a University of Alberta spin-off company, a critical success factor is establishing collaborations with the innovation ecosystem in Alberta, including the Government of Alberta, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Innovates Health Solutions, DynaLIFEDx, The Metabolomics Innovation Center (TMIC), and Alberta Innovates Center for Machine Learning (AICML). Building on a successful three-year collaboration, this grant allows MTI to continue working with AICML to develop the next generation platform and algorithm for PolypDx™.

"This has been an excellent collaboration for AICML demonstrating the ability of our Centre to not only conduct world leading research, but also translate that research into meaningful commercial outcomes.", says Cameron Schuler, AICML Executive Director. AICML was created in the fall of 2002 to enhance and augment the research excellence in Machine Learning that exists in the Department of Computing Science at the University of Alberta. In 2009, the AICML shifted its focus to not only world class research, but also the translation of inventions to commercial outcomes.

"Metabolomics gives you a precise chemical read out on a person's state of health, and in the case of PolypDx™, metabolomics can differentiate patients who are at high risk or low risk of developing colon cancer. This could have a tremendous impact on how doctors treat their patients", says Dr. David Wishart, Director of TMIC and Professor in the Departments of Biological Sciences and Computing Sciences at the University of Alberta. TMIC is a nationally funded core facility focused on cutting-edge metabolomic studies.

Through the support of NRC-IRAP and working with AICML, MTI gains the benefit of fostering and retaining highly qualified personnel such as Roman Eisner, a programmer analyst at AICML, who has recently joined the MTI team as their Manager of Informatics. Eisner recently published his work with MTI in *BioMed Research International* in a scientific publication entitled "A machine-learned predictor of colonic polyps based on urinary metabolites".

“While I am sad to lose Roman as an employee, I am delighted to gain a top-notch collaborator as we continue to work with MTI. We at AICML are always pleased to see core machine learning ideas being used to help design novel products, but we are especially proud here, as we were able to directly contribute to MTI”, says Dr. Russ Greiner, Principal Investigator at AICML and Professor in the Department of Computing Science at the University of Alberta.

The project supported by this NRC-IRAP grant follows an operational trial with Alberta Health Services in Lethbridge, Alberta, that ensures the operational suitability of the PolypDx™ test. Most recently, TMIC, AICML, and MTI have jointly submitted a project proposal for Genome Canada’s Genomic Partnership Program to support a Canadian initiative to bring a metabolomic-based diagnostic tool into routine clinical use.

BACKGROUNDER

About Alberta Innovates Center for Machine Learning

Part of the innovation system, the Alberta Innovates Centre for Machine Learning is supported by Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures (Tech Futures). Tech Futures offers services focused on developing innovative technology applications that contribute to the growth and diversification of Alberta’s economy. For more information, visit www.aicml.ca.

Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures

Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures is part of Alberta’s research and innovation system and is helping build healthy, sustainable businesses in the province. Through a suite of programs and services for entrepreneurs, companies, researchers, post-secondary institutions and investors, Tech Futures provides technical services and funding support to facilitate the commercialization of technologies, to develop new knowledge-based industry clusters and to help encourage an entrepreneurial culture in Alberta. For more information, visit www.albertatechfutures.ca.

About The Metabolomics Innovation Center

TMIC is a Genome Canada-funded national science and technology innovation centre for metabolomics services and cutting edge research. TMIC builds on metabolomics expertise at the University of Alberta and the University of Victoria, which includes \$20 million in state-of-the-art metabolomics equipment and ongoing investment for “omics” research and technologies by Genome Canada, Genome British Columbia, and Genome Alberta. TMIC’s technologies are based on NMR, mass spectrometry, gas chromatography, and novel bioinformatics tools to support clinical trial research, biomedical studies, agricultural studies, nutrient profiling, and environmental testing for applications such as human health and disease, petroleum research, forensics, food and nutrition, anti-doping, and textile sciences. TMIC provides access to cutting-edge metabolomic and bioinformatics technologies for Genome Canada-funded projects and the broader research community including government, academia, and industry. For more information, visit www.metabolomicscentre.ca.

About Metabolomic Technologies Inc.

Metabolomic Technologies Inc. (MTI) is a spin-off company from the University of Alberta. The company was formed by Drs. Haili Wang and Richard Fedorak to develop advanced metabolomic-based diagnostic tests for the management of chronic diseases or 'high value' diagnostics. MTI's initial focus is on developing highly novel, patented, metabolomic-based diagnostic tests to detect adenomatous polyps and colorectal cancer (CRC). Their flagship product, PolypDx™, a spot urine diagnostic test, innovatively offers significantly higher sensitivity in detecting adenomatous polyps than existing commercial tests, and thus significantly advances the prevention of CRC. For more information, visit www.metabolomictechnologies.ca.

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