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Press Release

BLUEGNOME LAUNCHES BLUEFUSE FOR BIOMARKERS

New data processing service selected by leading pharmaceutical company to accelerate discovery of metabolic disease and toxicity markers

BlueGnome, leaders in the provision of software for microarray data analysis, will use the 2nd Annual Metabomeeting symposium in Cambridge this week to announce the availability of BlueFuse for Biomarkers, a comprehensive data acquisition and processing service for metabolic profiling.

Metabolic profiling is increasingly recognized by the pharmaceutical industry as a valuable tool for understanding disease and drug toxicity. By using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectrometry (MS), the metabolic composition of biological samples associated with different conditions may be non-invasively compared, thereby enabling the identification of candidate metabolic markers for disease progression and drug toxicity. The industry anticipates that increased use of metabolic markers will improve the translation of new compounds from the bench into the clinic.

Although conceptually simple, the automated discovery of metabolic markers is currently frustrated by a range of data analysis challenges, including inter-individual variability, process related artefacts, the presence of confounding factors, and large data volumes. Biomarker discovery has therefore remained manually intensive and highly dependent on each individual researcher's experience of the relevant mathematics, biology and experimental platforms.

The BlueFuse for Biomarkers service enables pharmaceutical organizations to overcome these challenges using a combination of revolutionary statistical algorithms and extensive metabolic profiling expertise.

Dr John Haselden, Director Investigative Preclinical Toxicology, Safety Assessment at GSK R&D elaborated, "The utility of metabolic profiling is continuing to evolve in the pharmaceutical industry, and is perceived to have particular potential in the discovery of biomarkers to support pre-clinical and clinical phases of drug development. Efficient and repeatable analysis of large datasets generated by NMR & MS platforms remains a major hurdle if this potential is to be fully realized.

The BlueFuse for Biomarkers service provides a comprehensive and informed analysis of such datasets using novel algorithms and technologies which help minimize our requirement for routine data analysis, thereby freeing up valuable biological expertise. The service is becoming an integral and valuable part of our analysis pipeline."

BlueGnome's first product, BlueFuse for Microarrays, is already the standard application for the clinical diagnosis of genetic abnormalities using microarray based arrayCGH experimentation. The extension of BlueFuse to the discovery of metabolic markers is seen as a logical development. Dr Nick Haan, CEO of BlueGnome explained, "Our mission at BlueGnome is to become a leader in the provision of software, services and consumables for the discovery and screening of biomarkers in research, clinical and pharmaceutical applications. The launch of BlueFuse for Biomarkers represents a major step towards that goal".

BlueFuse for Biomarkers is available either as a data processing service for raw NMR and mass spectrometry data or as a fully integrated data acquisition and processing service for biological samples. For further information contact Nick Haan, CEO, BlueGnome (nick.haan@cambridgebluegnome.com)

Cambridge, 9th January 2006