



Canada's Largest Genomics Project Moving Forward on Human and Animal Immunity

\$27 Million Project Initiated with Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Pyxis Genomics Canada Inc. in Partnership with Genome Canada and Genome Prairie

Calgary, AB, Vancouver, BC, Canada and Chicago, IL, USA – November 26, 2002

Genome Prairie, Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Pyxis Genomics Inc. today announced the commencement of a major \$27 million strategic alliance aimed at understanding the mechanisms by which pathogens such as bacteria infect humans and animals.

The Project, entitled "Functional Pathogenomics of Mucosal Immunity" (FPMI), will apply genomics to the study of pathogens and their hosts, and the influence each may have on the genes of both. The researchers will use genomics techniques to focus on understanding immunity to infectious diseases and how it may be enhanced, leading to new treatments and prevention strategies for both human and animal infections.

The overall goal of the project will be to identify new mechanisms of disease, which may lead to the development of new medicines for the treatment of infectious diseases in both humans and animals by the project's corporate partners - Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Pyxis Genomics, Inc.-through its Canadian Subsidiary, Pyxis Genomics Canada Inc.

According to published statistics, infectious diseases are responsible for a third of all deaths worldwide. They are also a major problem in the livestock industry, costing billions of dollars each year and contributing to poor human nutrition.

Dr. Randal Johnston, President & CEO of Genome Prairie, said "The FPMI Project will provide a significant input of funding into two important industrial sectors: Human healthcare and agricultural genomics. We are proud to be bringing together a team of world-class researchers and two corporate sponsors, with the additional support of Genome British Columbia and its technology platforms."

The FPMI project is being co-led by Dr. Lorne Babiuk at the Veterinary Infectious Diseases Organization (VIDO) at the University of Saskatchewan and Dr. Bob Hancock at the University of British Columbia. It includes researchers from Simon Fraser University, the British Columbia Cancer Agency, Pyxis and Inimex, and has linkages to the University of Minnesota and the University of Illinois.

In addition to a significant investment from Genome Canada, Pyxis Canada and Inimex will each provide a portion of the funding in support of this project. Funding is also being provided by the Saskatchewan Government and Western Economic Diversification. In return for their support, Pyxis and Inimex will receive research funding and have been granted the exclusive right to commercialize discoveries arising from the research, Pyxis' commercialization rights will be in the Animal Health Field and Inimex's commercialization rights are in the field of Human Healthcare.



“This is an important partnership for Inimex,” stated Jeffrey Bacha, Inimex’s President & CEO. “The FPMI Program will enable us to expand our research efforts in collaboration with world-leaders in the field of infectious diseases here in Canada and in the United States. We are very proud to be part of this outstanding team of scientists.”

Dr. Lawrence Schook, President & Chief Scientific Officer of Pyxis Genomics said, “The FPMI program will greatly enhance our research efforts toward understanding innate immunity at the mucosal level. We look forward to working with our partners to accelerate the discovery of novel validated targets and potential drug compounds that may someday have significant impact on diseases in both animals and in humans.”

“This is truly a national program of international quality,” stated Dr. Martin Godbout, President & CEO of Genome Canada. “The FPMI program is in fact the largest genomics project funded by Genome Canada. It represents a significant step toward realizing Genome Canada’s goal of ensuring that Canada becomes a world leader in genomics research, particularly in the health and agricultural sectors.”

About Genome Prairie & Genome Canada

Genome Prairie is one of five Genome Centres established by Genome Canada, the primary funding and information resource relating to genomics and proteomics in Canada. Genome Canada is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to developing and implementing a national strategy in genomics and proteomics research for the benefit of Canadians. Genome Canada has received \$300 million from the federal government to establish five research Centres across the country. The Genome Centres (Atlantic, Québec, Ontario, Prairies and BC) are working closely with other partners such as provincial governments, the private sector and national and international foundations to ensure that Canada becomes a world leader in genomics and proteomics research in key selected areas such as agriculture, environment, fisheries, forestry and health.

About Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Inimex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a Vancouver B.C. based private biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery, development and commercialization of new medicines based on the up-regulation and control of the innate immune response. For additional information, please visit the company's website, www.inimexpharma.com.

About Pyxis Genomics Canada Inc. & Pyxis Genomics, Inc.

Pyxis Canada is the Canadian subsidiary of U.S. Based Pyxis Genomics, the scientific leader in applying functional genomics to animal health to enhance productivity and wellness. Founded in 1999, Pyxis Genomics is a privately held early stage research and development company focused on identifying genes and gene products that enhance and predict animal health and productivity while improving food safety and quality. For additional information, please visit the company's website, www.pyxisgenomics.com.

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