

Proteome Systems and High Q expand program for Huntington's disease biomarkers

Sydney, Australia and New York, USA, 15 November 2004

Proteome Systems (ASX: PXL) and the High Q Foundation today announced the expansion of a biomarker discovery program for Huntington's disease (HD). The program is seeking to discover biomarkers that will be used for monitoring the onset and progression of HD and provide insights into the efficacy of existing and future treatments.

In the pilot program commenced in April 2004, Proteome Systems identified changes in protein expression in a small set of Huntington's patients. The expanded 18 month program will apply proprietary targeted approaches to identify new biomarkers for the disease. The intention is to develop clinical tests to assist in monitoring the onset and progression of the disease.

Proteome Systems will receive technology access fees and milestone payments under the 18 month program, up to a maximum of US\$3 million.

"We are delighted that the outcomes from the pilot program have demonstrated our capacity to discover biomarkers for HD. Our state of the art technology, combined with High Q's expertise and knowledge of HD, gives us a good chance of delivering tests that can assist in patient care and quality of life for HD sufferers" said Dr. Jenny Harry, Head of Discovery at Proteome Systems.

Dr. Allan Tobin, Senior Scientific Advisor to the High Q Foundation, said "Proteome Systems has proven that its Discovery researchers have made concrete progress on this HD biomarker program. We are excited to expand the relationship with Proteome Systems and anticipate the discovery of biomarkers that will enable us to track the course and treatment of HD."

About Huntington's Disease

Huntington's disease is an inherited genetic disease that affects approximately one in every 10 000 men and women and is invariably fatal. Onset of the disease usually occurs between 30 and 50 years of age with deterioration of nerve cells that results in progressive motor, psychiatric

and cognitive dysfunction, such as uncontrollable muscle movements, impaired thinking and depression.

The Huntingtin gene was mapped in 1983 and the mutation responsible for the disease discovered in 1993. Currently there are no effective treatments available to halt the development of the disease.

About Proteome Systems

Proteome Systems Discovery & Diagnostics business discovers protein biomarkers that have potential for use as diagnostics and therapeutic targets in the areas of respiratory disease, neurobiology and aging and cancer. Proteome Systems Technology business develops and commercialises innovative technology solutions to enable proteomics and glycomics research. These solutions include integrated instrument-based systems, consumables and bioinformatic software. Additional information about Proteome Systems can be found at <http://www.proteomesystems.com>.

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About High-Q

High Q Foundation was established in 2002 with the mission of bringing together academia, industry, governmental agencies, and other funding organisations in the search for Huntington's disease treatments. The Foundation supports numerous projects related to HD, including basic research, a drug-discovery program, and clinical studies.

Contact Information

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