



London Genetics and Astrimmune to Collaborate on Cancer Vaccine

London and Nottingham, UK, November 12, 2010 – London Genetics Limited, an expert in the use of pharmacogenetics in clinical drug discovery and development, and Astrimmune, which is focused on gastrointestinal cancers, are pleased to announce that they have entered into a collaboration to plan a biomarker identification programme. The plan, for Astrimmune's early-stage pancreatic cancer vaccine candidate, will be used in applications for further funding of its development. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Astrimmune's vaccine candidate induces the production of antibodies against gastrin, a hormone which is known to stimulate the growth of many types of gastrointestinal cancer. Since differential response rates have been observed in clinical trials of other gastrin-blocking products, with some patients responding very well and others hardly at all, there is a clear need for biomarkers to help identify those patients most likely to benefit from Astrimmune's product. For example, there is a possibility that the variable response rates may have been due in part to the inclusion of some patients with gastrin-insensitive tumours, or those not able to respond immunologically.

Under the terms of the collaboration, which is supported by a grant from the UK East Midlands Development Agency, London Genetics and Astrimmune will put together a proposal for identification of biomarkers predictive of clinical response. London Genetics' seven academic partners, which have an annual research budget of over £650m, are able to provide expertise in areas such as tumour biopsy samples and animal models, as well as expertise in the genetics of immune responses to cancer vaccines.

Dominique Kleyn, CEO of London Genetics, said, 'This collaboration is a significant pharmacogenetic development opportunity, and we are pleased to be working with Astrimmune on this important project. As exemplified by our recent collaboration with Diaceutics and increasingly recognised by the biopharmaceutical industry, pharmacogenetics, biomarkers and patient stratification are becoming an important part of the drug discovery and development process. London Genetics' network of over 3,000 academic groups makes it an ideal partner for pharma and biotech companies in this work.'

Fred Jacobs, Managing Director of Astrimmune, said, 'Pancreatic cancer is an area of serious unmet medical need, with a five-year survival rate of around 5% and few treatment options. Availability of a biomarker to select those patients mostly likely to benefit from Astrimmune's vaccine candidate can be expected to expedite the development of this product and increase its chances of coming to market in the future. London Genetics is an expert in this area and Astrimmune is delighted to be working with the company on this important part of the project development.'

Notes to Editors:

About London Genetics

London Genetics Limited, a not-for-profit company, is an expert in the use of pharmacogenetics in clinical drug discovery and development. Established in 2007 with funding from the London Development Agency, its seven founding partners are leading London academic and medical institutions with clinical and genetic expertise and significant patient resources. The company provides pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with access to this expertise and resource, as well as providing strategic advice on the application of pharmacogenetics for successful drug development.

LGL has broad therapeutic expertise, based on its access to 3,000 academic groups with a £650m annual research spend. Recent deals by London Genetics include a partnership with Diaceutics to accelerate biomarker development in the biopharmaceutical industry. LGL is based in central London and has ISO 9001 accreditation. For further information, please go to www.londongenetics.com.

About Astrimmune

Astrimmune (Company Registration: 06379008), is a limited, social enterprise company developing treatments for gastrointestinal cancers. Astrimmune is focussed on the elimination of cancer growth factors that are not yet commercialised and is progressing a new immunogen vaccine candidate for use in gastro-intestinal cancers. The distillation of their prior knowledge, coupled with a research programme to refine patient selection to identify the most responsive patients, provides for an accelerated, low cost development path with an increased chance of successful product registration in the EU and the US. For further information, please go to www.astrimmune.blogspot.com.

About Pharmacogenetics

Genetic differences between individuals mean that drug response rates are often variable across a population, and this has significant implications for healthcare cost effectiveness. Pharmacogenetics, the study of the clinical consequences of genetic differences in the way people metabolise and respond to drugs, is expected to generate better understanding of how drugs work in the body, and therefore give insight into how to develop more efficacious and safer drugs. It also has implications for product life cycle management and the revitalisation of drugs which previously failed in clinical trials. With drug development costs rising and R&D productivity falling, plus increased regulator focus on safety and cost-effectiveness, pharmacogenetics is expected to become increasingly important in drug development. The FDA and the EMA have recognised this in their Critical Path Initiative and Road Map respectively.

For further information please contact:

London Genetics Ltd

Dominique Kleyn, CEO

T +44 (0) 207 594 1838

Emma Palmer Foster

Strategic Communications Consultant

T +44 (0) 7880 787 185

E communications@londongenetics.com

Astrimmune

Fred Jacobs

Managing Director

T +44 (0) 7989 386 326

