

SC BIO Announces New Company

April 2, 2008

(Greenwood, SC)—Cooperative Diagnostics, a recently funded start-up company, will lease research space from SC BIO at the South Carolina Biotechnology Incubation Facility located in Greenwood to develop novel clinical molecular diagnostic (MDX) assays for FDA approval. Cooperative Diagnostics will be moving from Pleasanton, California to Greenwood.

The agreement, announced today by SC BIO, is the result of the organization's continued commitment to support emerging life science companies with novel technologies. Cooperative Diagnostics' research combines real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay design skills and proprietary bioinformatics solutions to enhance PCR performance. PCR testing is a DNA-based technique used in medical and biological research. These high-value diagnostic tests help physicians diagnose, treat, and improve outcomes for patients. Examples of PCR applications include detection and diagnosis of hereditary or infectious diseases.

"We are excited to add Cooperative Diagnostics to the growing list of emerging life science companies in South Carolina. Cooperative Diagnostics works to improve diagnostic tests that are used in hospital clinical trials and infectious disease testing. The company will not only add to South Carolina's knowledge-economy, but also to the bioinformatics and diagnostic testing research community," said SC BIO Interim Director Ashley Hannah.

"The difficulty in any life science start-up company is connecting the technology with the people who need it most. SC BIO has given us the most direct opportunity to do just that," said Dr. Brent C. Satterfield, President of Cooperative Diagnostics. He also added, "We are pleased to become a part of the South Carolina community."

In addition to Cooperative Diagnostics, other tenants of the facility include drug formulation and drug delivery, and nutraceutical research companies.

Cooperative Diagnostics specializes in the mathematical optimization of DNA diagnostics and in the use of bioinformatics to select optimal targets in custom assay design. The company excels at all points in assay design and can offer partial or full assay design services ranging from the selection of targets all the way through assay validation. Cooperative Diagnostics was founded with the intention of designing custom PCR assays to meet the individual needs of clinical laboratories in any country, enabling the widespread adoption of diagnostics that will benefit society. Those assays carrying the greatest impact for society and investors alike are the initial focus of the company.

SC BIO (The South Carolina Biotechnology Incubation Program) is a public/private not-for-profit organization composed of industry, university and private companies collaborating to develop new life science companies in South Carolina. SC BIO is a catalyst that aids in commercialization supporting financial growth, process development and marketing for emerging life science companies. Established in 2002, SC BIO is currently working with 35 emerging companies across the state.

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