



For immediate release

TcLand Expression & Hospital Clínic - IDIBAPS sign an exclusive licence and collaboration agreement for the development of gene expression biomarker in liver transplantation

Nantes, France & Barcelona, Spain, July 8th 2008 - TcLand Expression (a biotechnology company specializing in gene expression biomarkers for auto-immune disorders and transplantation), and IDIBAPS (Institut D'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi I Sunyer a research consortium participated by the Hospital Clínic of Barcelona) today announced the signature of a worldwide, exclusive license and collaboration agreement for the development and commercialization of a gene expression biomarker in liver transplantation.

Under the terms of the agreement, TcLand will fund the gene expression signature's clinical validation studies up to the regulatory approval stage and will be in charge of worldwide commercialisation. Hospital Clínic - IDIBAPS will receive milestone payments from TcLand, together with royalties on worldwide sales of products or services involving the biomarker.

The aim is to use the gene expression signature (developed by Dr Alberto Sanchez Fueyo at the Hospital Clínic – IDIBAPS) to diagnose low-risk status in liver transplant recipients- thereby identifying candidates who may be eligible for safe immunosuppression (IS) minimization.

Liver transplantation is currently the second-ranked solid organ transplantation market (accounting for over 20% of all transplants) behind Kidney transplantation (more than 60%). Furthermore the rate of liver transplantation is expected to triple within the next 10 years, as a knock-on effect of HCV infections contracted during the 1980s.

“Hospital Clínic Barcelona is one of Europe’s foremost centres of excellence in hepatology. This agreement is a key milestone in TcLand’s corporate development and one which strengthens its leading position in the field of gene expression biomarkers in transplantation. We were very impressed by the quality of the research and clinical data that Dr Alberto Sanchez Fueyo has obtained and the excellent collaboration between the scientific teams at TcLand and Hospital Clínic – IDIBAPS gives us great confidence in this project,” said Alain Huriez, MD, President and CEO of TcLand.

“We are delighted to enter into this agreement with TcLand Expression. The strong biomarker development expertise of TcLand Expression is a major step towards making our gene expression signature available to health care professionals and patients globally.” said Dr Joan Bigorra, Managing Director of the Clinic Foundation for Biomedical Research.

About TcLand Expression

TcLand Expression SA was incorporated in 2002 as a spin-off from INSERM/ITERT (a major European research and clinical center of excellence in transplantation and immunology in Nantes, France). Today, the company is a leader in the development of gene expression biomarkers in transplantation and auto-immune disorders, and also provides cutting-edge immunomonitoring services.

For further information, please visit www.tcland-expression.com

About IDIBAPS

Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), founded in 1996, is a research consortium integrated by the Government of Catalunya, the University of Barcelona, the Hospital Clínic of Barcelona and the IBB of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC).

For further information, please visit www.idibaps.ub.edu

About Clínic Foundation for Biomedical Research

The Clínic Foundation for Biomedical Research is a non-profit institution created in May 1989 in Barcelona, Spain. Its mission is to promote and support the biomedical research focusing on the areas of expertise of the Clínic Hospital and the University of Barcelona. It acts as technology transfer unit and for this project has collaborated with the Bosch & Gimpera Foundation from the University of Barcelona.

For further information, please visit www.fundacioclinic.org

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