



Hybrigenics focuses its research on inhibitors of ubiquitin-specific proteases in cancer

Dutch subsidiary sells non-core research patents

Paris, February 20, 2007--Hybrigenics announces today that it is concentrating its research efforts on ubiquitin-specific proteases (USPs) and their inhibitors in cancer. Consequently, Hybrigenics has divested the patent portfolio of Semaia, its Dutch subsidiary, on the Wnt-pathway and the EPAC targets.

The USPs are a family of cysteine-proteases implicated in the regulation of protein degradation, a natural area of expertise for Hybrigenics specialized since its foundation in the study of protein-protein interactions. Breakdown of proteins regulates many important cellular functions, including cell proliferation. Hybrigenics scientists have identified and validated several USPs involved in the control of cell proliferation. Because uncontrolled cell proliferation is one of the hallmarks of cancer, these selected USPs represent particularly attractive new targets for cancer therapeutics. Hybrigenics researchers have also discovered and patented original chemical families of USP inhibitors exhibiting antiproliferative activity and currently undergoing lead optimization *in vivo*.

The Wnt pathway package, including proprietary targets, assays and research results, has been sold by Semaia, Hybrigenics' Dutch subsidiary, to Kiadis Pharma, and patents on EPAC proteins and EPAC modulators to the University of Utrecht, the institution to which their inventor, Professor Hans Bos, is affiliated. The Wnt pathway is involved in cell differentiation while EPACs are primarily diabetes targets; both scientific areas, although promising by themselves, are not directly relevant to USP research. Financial details were not disclosed.

"These two operations reinforce Hybrigenics' internal research focus on USPs and cancer, and on the *in vivo* optimization of its proprietary lead inhibitors," said Remi Delansorne, CEO at Hybrigenics.

About Hybrigenics: <http://www.hybrigenics.com>

Hybrigenics is a biopharmaceutical R&D company specialized in oncology. Its pipeline consists of a research program on Ubiquitin-Specific Proteases and their inhibitors, and of a vitamin D analogue, inecalcitol, in clinical development by the oral route for the combination treatment of cancer.

Hybrigenics also offers research services to public and private laboratories involved in protein-protein interactions from all biological or therapeutic areas. Its main service, Yeast Two-Hybrid (Y2H) Screening, has received worldwide ISO 9001:2000 certification in 2004. A new service, Small Molecule Screening, searching for inhibitors of protein-protein interaction was launched in 2006.

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