

HYBRIGENICS

Press Release

Hybrigenics: spearheading functional proteomics research for L'Oréal

Hybrigenics and L'Oréal are working together to know more about certain skin and hair proteins and to discover innovative substances

Paris, 13 December 2007 – Hybrigenics Services, the biotechnology branch of Hybrigenics specialized in protein-protein interactions, today announces a major technological progress in its collaboration with L'Oréal: following the discovery of new interactions between skin proteins, a chemical screening has been carried out to identify small molecules able to inhibit one of these interactions, as part of L'Oréal's scientific research for innovative cosmetics.

L'Oréal has selected Hybrigenics as a preferred partner to decipher the metabolic networks that control the internal balance of healthy skin and hair follicles. For the last three years, Hybrigenics' expertise in protein-protein interactions and L'Oréal's excellence in skin biology have been closely combined in a research programme. Using hair and skin samples provided by L'Oréal's laboratories, Hybrigenics designed and built very high complexity cDNA libraries. This enabled Hybrigenics to screen exhaustively the interactions between all proteins in these samples, using its patented Yeast-Two Hybrid (Y2H) screening technology. The screening platform used in this research has been ISO 9001-2000 certified since 2004.

This project is progressing rapidly, to the great satisfaction of both partners. A major result in this collaboration has just been achieved: following the identification of an especially interesting new interaction between two skin proteins, a miniaturised assay method has been developed for this interaction and the first part of Hybrigenics' in-house chemical library (consisting of 100,000 chemical compounds) has been screened *in vitro*, using an automated high throughput system. The compounds found capable of inhibiting this interaction between proteins will be used by L'Oréal as starting materials to design innovative cosmetics.

This is a model partnership in several ways: it involves trust in a long-lasting relationship, pooling of precious biological material, knowledge-sharing and pragmatic progress towards industrial applications, all in compliance with absolute confidentiality.

"L'Oréal is a company that is keen to develop new products through scientific innovations, and we are very proud to be one of its preferred research partners," stated Rémi Delansorne, CEO of Hybrigenics. *"Identification and validation of protein-protein interactions, and now their inhibition by small molecules: it is the quality and performance of the entire value chain offered by our full range of services which are validated by this committed and challenging reference customer."*

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About Hybrigenics – www.hybrigenics.com

A spin-off from the Pasteur Institute, Hybrigenics is a bio-pharmaceutical company that focuses on research and development of new cancer treatments. With a balanced business model combining recurring revenues in the short term with strong development potential in the medium term, Hybrigenics specialises in identifying interactions between proteins: functional proteomics.

Hybrigenics is organised as two operational entities: Hybrigenics Pharma and Hybrigenics Services.

- Hybrigenics Pharma concentrates on the pharmaceutical research and development projects managed internally, notably developing inecalcitol, an optimised analogue of vitamin D, for the treatment of prostate cancer in combination with existing thearapeutics to improve their effectiveness and tolerance. The Phase II clinical study in patients has recently begun having received all necessary authorisations. Hybrigenics Pharma is also conducting a research programme in the highly innovative field of regulating the degradation of the proteins involved in cancer.
- Hybrigenics Services, which specialises in identifying interactions between proteins, offers high-quality, personalised services to more than 450 customers worldwide. Thanks to its fully automated technology platform and a top-quality data history, Hybrigenics Services generates strongly recurring turnover and has grown its business by an average rate of 86% over the last two years.

Hybrigenics earned operating income totalling €3.7 million in the 2006 financial year. Considering the future clinical development of inecalcitol and in particular the financing of Phase III trials for prostate cancer, the company does not expect to reach operating profitability in the short term.

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