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Press Release

BLUEGNOME LAUNCHES GROUND-BREAKING GENETICS SOFTWARE

New version of BlueFuse, which will make possible widespread adoption of genetic screening, is to be launched at Human Genetics Conference in Prague

The widespread adoption of genetic screening as a diagnostic tool, and the accuracy with which affected genes can be identified, has taken a major step forward with the launch of a new software product – ‘BlueFuse for arrayCGH’ - by Cambridge-based BlueGnome. It is to be demonstrated for the first time at the Human Genetics Conference, in Prague 7-11 May 2005.

For some years, doctors have noticed patterns in diseases – patients suffering from a specific eye condition may also have a particular type of liver disease – it is now realized that this is because the affected genes are on the same chromosome and located next to each other and this section of genetic material is missing.

This discovery is opening up exciting new areas of research and is attracting great interest from doctors working in fields as diverse as cancer and IVF. Rapid access to accurate results is expected to have a profound impact on the counseling of patients.

The new software tool – ‘BlueFuse for arrayCGH’ - developed by BlueGnome automates the analysis of the genetic screening process. This improves the objectivity and repeatability of the results, so that the findings can be used with confidence in patient consultations.

Researchers in clinical laboratories are piloting a screening process called arrayCGH (microarray based comparative genomic hybridization), which allows all the genetic material to be scanned in a single test and any abnormalities identified. By automating the analysis researchers will be able to screen large numbers of patients and generate results that are free from the operator subjectivity and error that is inherent in existing manual approaches.

Working in close collaboration with major arrayCGH labs in both Europe and the USA, BlueGnome has incorporated the most promising of the emerging approaches to detecting DNA copy number changes into BlueFuse. This allows amplifications and deletions detected in the genetic material to be compared directly against the disease or other clinical presentation in the patient.

BlueFuse is the first commercially available product to offer fully integrated and automated analysis of arrayCGH experiments, extracting in minutes clinical meaningful results directly from the arrayCGH image.

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