

## People

**President named.** Applied Biosystems President Michael Hunkapiller has retired, and Catherine M. Burzik was named his successor. Burzik, previously executive vice president and chief operating officer of Applied Biosystems, was formerly with Johnson & Johnson.

**CEO hire.** Antares Pharma has appointed Jack E. Stover as director and chief executive officer. Previously president and chief operating officer, he will add



the duties of CEO and director following the resignation of Roger G. Harrison. Stover has more than 15 years of industry experience, including tenure with Sicor, a pharmaceutical company acquired by Teva Pharmaceutical, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Board appointee.** Agile Therapeutics, a company focusing on transdermal therapeutics, has named Thomas Rossi as its new CEO and president. Rossi's pharmaceutical development leadership experience includes time at SmithKline Beecham and Johnson & Johnson.

**Biopharmaceutical appointment.** John Flavin has accepted the position of president of Advanced Life Sciences after serving as chief financial officer since 2002. Formerly, Flavin gained company-building experience as chief operating officer of MediChem Life Sciences.

## Deals

**Pfizer drug option.** NicOx, a French pharmaceutical company developing nitric oxide-donating drugs, recently signed an R&D and licensing agreement with Pfizer. The agreement grants Pfizer an option to acquire a license covering early-stage nitric oxide-donating compounds in an undisclosed field. Pfizer will pay NicOx approximately \$2.4 million in the first six months, and about \$42 million in milestone payments if the collaboration results in a successful product.

**Software acquisition.** Agilent Technologies has reached an agreement to acquire Silicon Genetics, a software solutions provider for life science discovery. Recognized as one of the fastest-growing technology companies, Silicon Genetics' genomics data analysis and management tools will broaden Agilent's life science informatics offerings.

**Genotyping project.** Illumina has agreed to generate over 25 million mouse genotypes for The Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics at Oxford University. The fast-track services agreement will produce one of the largest genotyping projects and will examine

over 15,000 single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) loci in 2700 animals. Researchers hope the data will yield information on behavioral and physiological traits relevant to human diseases such as diabetes, obesity, asthma, anxiety, and depression. In other Illumina news, the company has settled all litigation with Appellera concerning a 1999 development agreement, but it is being sued by Affymetrix regarding six patents Affymetrix claims have been infringed.



**LION partnerships and products.** LION bioscience has established two partnerships to further its involvement in the cheminformatics market and support its new LeadNavigator software product. BioByte will provide calculation software for incorporation into LeadNavigator; ChemNavigator will provide custom software modules to be integrated into LeadNavigator. With BioByte and ChemNavigator's software, LeadNavigator will be a chemically intelligent analytics product to aid researchers in compound identification, optimization, and prioritization. LeadNavigator is a component of LION Lead Engine, LION's cheminformatics product suite.

## Marketplace

**Drug search.** Pharmaprojects has launched Pharmaprojects Version 5.1, a Web product that will allow customers to search the Pharmaprojects database by protein drug targets. Over 1300 proteins have been identified as drug targets, and precise drug targets have been assigned to over 43% of drugs in the database. In addition, customers can search over 14,000 chemical structures for compounds that obey or disobey Lipinski's rule of 5.

**Name change.** Paradigm Genetics has changed its name and corporate identity to Icoria. The name change

reflects a shift from a functional genomics company serving the agricultural sector to an integrated systems biology company serving both health care and agriculture.

**NIH funding.** Approximately \$24 million of NIH funding was awarded to Discovery Partners

International to set up and maintain a Small Molecule Repository to provide up to a million chemical compounds to multiple NIH Screening Centers. The repository will help advance the NIH's Roadmap initiative and will grant public-sector biomedical



researchers access to small organic molecules that can be used to study cellular pathways. The contract is set to run until December 2008, with the option of an extension.

**New company.** Bayer has spun out the rights to two of its products and related technologies to Aerovance, a new independent company developing biologic products for respiratory diseases. Wolf-Dieter Busse, formerly a senior vice president at Bayer, will serve as CEO of Aerovance and head a team of former Bayer employees. Leading venture investors raised \$32 million for the company. ■