

Marketplace

Life sciences partnership.

The Scripps Research Institute (www.scripps.edu) and the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC, www.parc.com) have created the Scripps-PARC Institute for



Advanced Biomedical Studies to develop technologies for life

sciences research. The collaborators have unveiled a fiber assay scanning technology system for detecting and monitoring cancer.

Automated R&D facility.

AstraZeneca (www.astrazeneca.com) recently opened a new automated compound management facility (ACMF) at its Wilmington, DE, site. The project is part of the company's initiative to rebuild its compound library. The ACMF will support other sites around the world and is part of the company's four-year, \$165 million investment in its U.S. research facilities.

Genomics licensing program.

Some of the most recently issued patents and early patents of Affymetrix (www.affymetrix.com) are now available for licensing. The patents cover areas including DNA and protein arrays, scanner and detector technology, and microfluidics, as well as the use of beads to measure nucleic acids or peptide binding for genomic analysis. Affymetrix's vision is "to make intellectual property accessible on reasonable terms to stimulate the broad commercialization of genome analysis technologies."

Deals

Paradigm acquisition. Paradigm Genetics (www.paradigmgenetics.com) has acquired TissueInformatics (www.tissueinformatics.com), a biotechnology company that specializes in the development and application of automated pathology software for the quantitative analysis of tissue. The merger will create "the first company to combine gene expression profiling, biochemical profiling, and quantitative tissue analysis in a systems biology approach to life sciences discovery," says Paradigm President and CEO Heinrich Guggler.

Vaccines sale. Shire Pharmaceuticals (www.shire.com) has agreed to sell its vaccines business to ID Biomedical Corp. (IDB, www.idbio.med.com), a Canadian-based biotechnology company, for a total of \$120 million. Under the agreement, Shire will provide a \$100 million loan to help fund the development of the vaccines business, repayable from income generated by IDB on future sales. "The vaccines business is no longer core to the company's global strategy," says Shire CEO Matthew Emmens. "And upon the completion of this transaction, Shire will be exclusively focused on therapeutic products."

R&D expansion. Pharmaceutical Resources (PRX, www.parpharm.com), a developer, manu-

facturer, and distributor of generic pharmaceuticals, has announced a definitive agreement to acquire Kali Laboratories, a generic pharmaceutical R&D company developing products commercialized by its marketing partners. "We view this acquisition as the first step toward significantly expanding the scope of our R&D capabilities and substantially increasing the size of our product portfolio," says Scott Tarriff, PRX president and CEO. PRX will purchase Kali for \$135 million in warrants and cash.

Aussie life sciences merger.

Biotechnology companies Peptech (www.peptech.com) and Agenix (www.agenix.net) have announced a proposed merger, which would create Australia's largest biotech company. The merged entity will provide a strong platform for future growth, according to Peptech Chairman Mel Bridges and Agenix Chairman Ravindran Govindan, by building upon the companies' successes in therapeutics, imaging, animal health, and diagnostics. In connection with the proposed merger, Peptech has entered into a pre-bid agreement with one of Agenix's shareholders, Asiaeagle International, owned by Govindan. Subject to conditions, including court and Agenix shareholder approval, the companies expect to complete the transaction in September.



People

Bioscience appointment.

Quantum Dot Corp. (www.qdots.com) has appointed George Dunbar as CEO and board director. Before his appointment, Dunbar held a number of senior management and CEO positions at companies including Amersham, Ares-Serono, and Molecular Probes. He was also CEO of Epic Therapeutics, a controlled-release formulation company sold to Baxter Healthcare in 2002. Most recently, Dunbar served



as CEO of Targesome and was instrumental in the sale of the early-stage targeted drug delivery start-up.

New hire at SGX. SGX (www.stromix.com), a structure-guided drug discovery company, has appointed Neill

Giese as senior vice president of drug development. Giese joins SGX from Millennium Pharmaceuticals, where he was a major contributor to the discovery and development of MLN518, an oral small-molecule drug specifically de-

signed to inhibit type III receptor tyrosine.

Pharma manager on board.

GLYCART (www.glycart.com), a Swiss antibody-focused biotechnology company, has appointed William J. Jenkins to its board of directors. Previously, Jenkins was a consultant to the pharmaceutical industry, investment funds, and venture capital firms. He also was head of clinical research affairs at GlaxoSmithKline and head of clinical development and regulatory affairs at Ciba-Geigy and Novartis. ■