



MEDIA RELEASE

August 2009

Ground breaking research in diabetes protein biomarkers in Busselton Study

A forty-year old idea for medical research is taking on a new lease of life in a ground-breaking study underway in Busselton and Perth, Western Australia. Researchers are set to examine biomarkers in the blood of those suffering from diabetes using cutting edge techniques in protein analysis. The study will use volunteers from the world famous Busselton Health Study. This unique longitudinal study has been in progress since the 1960s and some of the original participants will take part in this new work.

"Biomarkers are proteins that exist in the blood which can be measured and used as a diagnostic tool and a predictor of disease. They've already been used to develop new treatments for cancer, and now we'd like to improve health outcomes in diabetes," said Dr Richard Lipscombe, Managing Director of Proteomics International.

Diabetes is the term covering the two emerging diseases of modern society, diabetes and obesity. Obesity is directly linked to diabetes. It is hoped that biomarkers discovered from the inspirational Busselton study will be able to predict the on-set of diabetes before clinical symptoms manifest. Proteomics International has teamed up with the Fremantle Hospital Diabetes Research Group to lead the collaborative study. Professor Tim Davis of Fremantle Hospital said *"The value of the community's interest in aiding medical research of this type cannot be underestimated and builds on a wealth of established data"*.

The research is being conducted as part of the Centre for Food and Genomic Medicine (CFGM), an initiative of the WA Institute for Medical Research. Within the centre, Proteomics International provides a new perspective with its expertise in mass spectrometry. The aim of the project is to generate data from cohorts that have diabetes and those who are healthy, and compare the differences.

Other project nodes within the CFGM are investigating the nutritional health benefits of incorporating lupin breads and other lupin based foodstuffs to the diet of diabetic and obese volunteers. The hope is that such new foods will help bring diabetes under control.

About the Busselton Health Study

The Busselton Population Medical Research Foundation's "Busselton Health Study", one of the longest running epidemiological research programs in the world. The residents of the town of Busselton, a coastal community in the south-west of Western Australia, have been involved in a series of health surveys since 1966. To date over 16,000 men, women & children of all ages have taken part in the surveys and have helped contribute to our understanding of many common diseases and health conditions.

About Proteomics International Pty Ltd

Proteomics International is both a contract service provider and research and development company, focused on providing quality analytical services to the biological research market and on developing value from protein drug discovery. Proteomics International combines the most advanced high throughput mass spectrometry instrumentation (MALDI TOF-TOF and LC-MS/MS) and a team of qualified scientists with proven expertise in protein and peptide chemistry. The company has two focal research activities; analysis of venoms using its proprietary *Bioven* process, and the discovery and use of biomarkers from a variety of tissue sources. Skills developed from these research programs are incorporated into the sophisticated suite of specialist contract research techniques provided to clients. High quality, quick and affordable protein identification, analytical and characterization services are routinely provided. Proteomics International is based in Perth, Western Australia and has established itself as an industry leader in the delivery of contract research and lead molecule discovery services in the Asia Pacific region.

About the Centre for Food and Genomic Medicine (CFGM)

The Centre is a world-class research facility that harnesses the power of plants and genetics to tackle the twin epidemics of diabetes and obesity, known as "diabetes". Established in 2006 with \$4.5 million seed funding from the Government of Western Australia, the Centre brings together scientists from the biotechnology, agriculture and food technology sectors to investigate new ways of beating these growing health conditions.

The CFGM's approaches to improve health focus on two main areas:

- preventative measures by developing better food using genomic technology; and
- developing better treatments based on understanding the genetic causes of disease, also utilizing genomic technology.

A Western Australian Centre of Excellence, the Centre is based at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research, and other partners include the major Universities and Hospitals in WA, CSIRO Plant Industry, the Telethon Institute for Child Health, the WA Department of Agriculture, and biotech company Proteomics International.

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