



**Proteomics International**

LABORATORIES LTD

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## **Proteomics signs with world-renowned Busselton Health Study to target lung disease**

Medical technology company Proteomics International Laboratories Ltd (Proteomics International; ASX: PIQ), a leader in predictive diagnostics, announces it has joined forces with the Busselton Population Medical Research Institute (BPMRI) to target improved diagnosis and treatment of lung conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

- **Collaboration targets improved diagnosis and treatment of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**
- **Globally recognised population study provides access to a unique collection of accumulated data and biological specimens**
- **Builds upon success of Promarker™ technology, with PromarkerD to launch Q1 2018**
- **Preliminary results from the study will be available in 6-9 months; other studies into endometriosis, giardiasis and mesothelioma are on-going**
- **Asthma and COPD cost health care systems tens of billions of dollars annually**

Under a collaborative research agreement Proteomics International and BPMRI will seek improved diagnostic tests for lung conditions including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Whilst both conditions block airflow and make it difficult to breathe, asthma typically affects younger patients, whereas COPD is linked to ageing and exposure to toxins such as cigarette smoke.

The collaboration brings one of the longest running epidemiological research programs in the world under the focus of Proteomics International's proven Promarker biomarker discovery platform, and allows the company's scientists to ask precise questions about the onset of disease.

The BPMRI manages the Busselton Health Study, which was initiated in 1966, and is a globally recognised population study that follows participants for up to 50 years to track changes in the incidence and prevalence of chronic conditions and their risk factors.

COPD, which includes emphysema, airway inflammation and narrowing and is associated with chronic bronchitis, is commonly misdiagnosed. "Once the disease is advanced interventions are less effective because damage to the lungs from COPD cannot be reversed with current treatments," said Professor Alan James, Chairman of BPMRI and also a consultant respiratory physician at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth. "We are excited to pursue new tests for the early diagnosis of such common conditions by unlocking the secrets hidden within the stored data and specimens from the Busselton Health Study", he said.

Proteomics International's Managing Director, Dr Richard Lipscombe added "Large patient groups with healthy matched controls are the key to unlocking new diagnostic tests. Working with the Busselton Health Study is tremendous because it gives us access to a unique collection of accumulated data and biological specimens. This allows us to rule out confounding variables that hide subtle differences, and look for new markers for disease that others may never see."

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Asthma affects 1 in 9 Australians – around 2.5 million, and the estimated cost of the condition in Australia alone in 2015 was \$27.9 billion.

In industrialised countries, 5-15% of adults have COPD and it is the third most common cause of death in the USA. The direct cost to the Australian health care system is estimated to be \$900 million, with this figure exceeding \$30 billion in the USA for direct health care expenditures, and another \$20 billion in indirect costs.

Current tests for asthma and COPD measure lung function using a device called a spirometer that measures the amount of air a patient can exhale forcefully, however, it is hard to do lung function tests in children younger than five years. Imaging the lungs with chest X-rays and CT scans and responses to treatment can also help diagnosis but are not always definitive.

Proteomics International also has research and development programmes for endometriosis, giardiasis, and mesothelioma, which are expected to deliver results in 2018. These build upon continued investment in the Promarker™ technology platform which produced PromarkerD, the world leading predictive diagnostic test for diabetic kidney disease which will launch in Q1 2018. The company is now in a strong position to apply Promarker™ to targeting other chronic diseases to produce new diagnostic tests in areas of unmet medical need.

Preliminary results from the asthma and COPD study will be available in 6-9 months and if successful a new diagnostic test could be available in 2-3 years. Proteomics International will have the right to commercialise any diagnostic markers found, with BPMRI receiving a royalty on use of the test.

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**About Busselton Health Study** ([www.bpmri.org.au](http://www.bpmri.org.au))

The Busselton Health Study one of the longest running epidemiological studies in the world. Since 1966, over 16,000 residents of Busselton, located in Western Australia's south-west, have participated in surveys concerning such health topics as cardiovascular disease, pulmonary function, diabetes, and allergies, resulting in over 300 academic publications. The program is administered by Busselton Population Medical Research Foundation. The Busselton Health Studies have been described as a national treasure and continue to provide important information about the prevalence and risk factors of many common diseases and health conditions.

**About the Promarker™ Platform**

Proteomics International's diagnostics development is made possible by the company's proprietary biomarker discovery platform called Promarker, which searches for protein 'fingerprints' in a sample. This disruptive technology can identify proteins that distinguish between people who have a

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disease and people who do not, using only a simple blood test. It is a powerful alternative to genetic testing. The technology is so versatile it can be used to identify fingerprints from any biological source, from wheat seeds to human serum.

**About Proteomics International Laboratories (PILL) ([www.proteomicsinternational.com](http://www.proteomicsinternational.com))**

Proteomics International is a wholly owned subsidiary and trading name of PILL (ASX: PIQ), a medical technology company focused on proteomics – the industrial scale study of the structure and function of proteins. PILL is recognised as a global leader in the field of proteomics. It received the world's first ISO 17025 laboratory accreditation for proteomics services, and operates from state-of-the-art facilities located on the QEII Medical Campus in Perth, Western Australia. The Company's business model uses its proprietary technology platform across three integrated areas of diagnostics, drug discovery and analytical services.