



Asuragen, Inc.
2150 Woodward St. Austin, T.X. 78744
PH: 512.651.0191
T: 877.777.1874
F: 512.651.0601
www.asuragen.com

Asuragen Secures MicroRNA Licensing Agreement with Rockefeller University

Access to proprietary microRNAs positions Asuragen to develop early cancer detection tools

Austin, TX – July 26, 2006 – Asuragen, Inc., an oncology molecular diagnostic company and molecular biology service provider, announces that it has entered into a semi-exclusive licensing agreement with Rockefeller University for the diagnostic rights to its proprietary microRNA sequences.

Through this agreement, Asuragen will have access to microRNAs identified by a group led by Rockefeller University researcher, Thomas Tuschl, Ph.D., a distinguished thought leader in the discovery and application of siRNAs and microRNAs. The microRNAs have been found to have expression profiles and functions involved with human diseases like diabetes and cancer.

“This licensing agreement, combined with our expertise in microRNAs, will facilitate Asuragen’s efforts to investigate the potential of these new molecular biomarkers as diagnostic analytes. We spun Asuragen out of Ambion to create a molecular diagnostics company focused on RNA technologies and this license significantly strengthens our position in this rapidly growing field,” said Matt Winkler, CEO of Asuragen.

About microRNAs

MicroRNAs are naturally occurring small RNAs that act to regulate mRNA expression and have the potential to be the basis for a new class of diagnostics and therapeutics. There are approximately 350 microRNAs identified in humans, with the total predicted to eventually reach 1,000 or more. microRNAs are believed to regulate at least one-third of the human genes. They are likely to play significant roles in the manifestation of many disease states, including metabolic, infectious diseases and cancer.

About Asuragen, Inc.

Asuragen, Inc. is a newly formed company that resulted from the sale, in March, 2006, of the Research Products Division of Ambion, Inc. to Applied Biosystems Group (NYSE: ABI). Asuragen is comprised of two of Ambion’s former divisions, Diagnostics and Services, along with the formation of a new Discovery group dedicated to developing new technologies that will become cutting edge clinical products.

Asuragen’s current product portfolio consists of Signature® Genetic Testing and Oncology Testing products, as well as industry leading controls and standards engineered using its patented Armored RNA® technology. Asuragen has recently formed a partnership with Digene Corporation (NASDAQ: DIGE) to market and distribute its Signature cystic fibrosis screening products.

The vision for Asuragen is to become a fully integrated diagnostic reagent company focused on molecular oncology and early detection of cancer, with emphasis on microRNAs. Comprised of over 100 employees spun out of Ambion, Asuragen is empowered with not only a high level of scientific expertise, but also assay development, business infrastructure and an established cGMP manufacturing facility that allow it to span the spectrum of discovery, production and commercialization.

For more information, visit www.asuragen.com.

About The Rockefeller University

The Rockefeller University is a world-renowned center for research and graduate education in the biomedical sciences, chemistry, and physics. Founded by John D. Rockefeller in 1901, the university has been the site of many important scientific breakthroughs. Rockefeller scientists established that DNA is the chemical basis of heredity, discovered blood groups, showed that viruses can cause cancer, founded the modern field of cell biology, and worked out the structure of antibodies. Twenty-three Nobel Prize winners have been associated with the university.

For more information please visit: www.rockefeller.edu.

#

Contact:
Craig Miller
Marketing
512.651.0590
cmiller@asuragen.com