

TETHIS

Tethis establishes a collaborative agreement with Cogentech (Consortium for Genomic Technologies, Milan), to validate a novel platform for phosphoproteomic analysis by Mass spectrometry.

Milan (Italy) Jan 14, 2009 ---- Tethis s.r.l., a Genextra company developing nanostructured thin layers for biosensor, diagnostic and drug discovery applications, today announced the agreement for a collaboration with Cogentech for the development of a novel platform, based on proprietary nanostructured metal oxides, for phosphoproteomic analysis by Mass spectrometry.

Through this agreement Tethis and Cogentech plan to develop an innovative method for phosphoproteomic identification and analysis with several advantages compared to standard technologies.

Mass spectrometry has become a gold standard method for the identification and profiling of biomarkers on human biological samples that could be relevant in many diseases: in particular phosphoproteins represent important targets involved in different pathologies, i.e. cancer and degenerative syndromes. Limits to the widespread adoption of these technologies are mainly related to the high cost, the low throughput features of the protocols and the limited sensitivity of detection.

Tethis is a leading company for the development of innovative solutions based on biocompatible nanostructured metal oxides that are proved to be effective as protein binding biomaterials (Giorgetti L, Bongiorno G, Podestà A, Berlanda G, Scopelliti PE, Carbone R, Milani P., Langmuir. 2008 Oct 21; 24(20):11637-44).

“With this technology we plan to speed up the time for phosphoprotein analysis, increase the throughput, reduce the amount of samples and increase the recovery with the consequence of increasing the sensitivity and reducing costs” said Dr. Gabriela Grigorean, responsible of the Mass Spectrometry Unit at Cogentech.

“ It is now more and more urgent to improve the performance of the Mass spec technology that, in the future, could evolve as a “routine” test for protein profiling” said Dr. Roberta Carbone, Tethis’ Biotechnology Program Leader.

“With this new agreement we further strengthen our role in R&D direction toward technological innovation for possible future novel opportunities” said Massimo Gatelli, General Manager of Tethis.

About Tethis s.r.l.

Tethis s.r.l. is a privately held company active in the bio- and nanotechnology fields, committed to the development of novel nanostructured thin layers to apply to innovative tools for environmental monitoring, diagnostics and drug discovery. In addition to the aforementioned project, the company is advancing the development of a novel diagnostic device for genome investigation. Tethis is controlled owned by Genextra S.p.A., a private biopharmaceutical group headquartered in Milan primarily dedicated to the discovery and development of innovative therapeutics for the cure of cancer, age-related and metabolic disorders. Beyond Tethis, Genextra develops its programs through three other subsidiary companies: Congenia, DAC and Intercept Pharmaceuticals.