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VisionGate licenses UW technology developed for 3D cell imaging

New imaging platform will focus first on lung cancer risk

(Seattle, WA)—February 26, 2009—UW TechTransfer, the University of Washington organization that facilitates the commercialization of university research, has licensed key technologies to VisionGate, Inc. (a privately held company in Gig Harbor, WA) to be incorporated in its 3D cell analysis platform, the Cell-CT™, an automated 3D-imaging system that provides a revolutionary new way of visualizing cells in three dimensions with high resolution. The licensed technology consists of patents that UW researchers co-developed with VisionGate.

Prof. Eric Seibel and his colleagues at UW collaborated with scientists from VisionGate to develop a unique method for creating a shadowgram for optical tomography, enabling a microscope imaging system to produce pictures in a manner similar to an X-ray cat scan, but using the optical spectrum rather than X-rays. Incorporating the newly discovered optical tomography technology, VisionGate's Cell-CT™ platform is capable of generating true three dimensional images of cells. The ground breaking Cell-CT platform provides stunningly detailed 3D images revealing new cellular features for automated measurement to predict the risk of disease, focusing first on lung cancer.

Approximately 91 million smokers are at high-risk of lung cancer and are in need of annual screening in the U.S., Japan and Europe combined. The cure rate of lung cancer is relatively high if the disease is discovered in its very early stages; thus, a successful screening test could save many lives. However, there is no FDA-approved screening test for lung cancer today. VisionGate hopes to harness the power of the Cell-CT technology in the fight against lung cancer through the analysis of cells isolated from patient sputum (phlegm). This technology could give physicians an early look into the morphological changes in cells that reflect early changes associated with cancer.

“UW researchers and resources have helped support the development of VisionGate’s unique and groundbreaking Cell-CT system, without which we wouldn’t be in the position we are now—building prototypes rapidly, allowing for early entry into clinical studies,” stated Dr. Alan Nelson, founder and CEO of VisionGate. “Working with Prof. Eric Seibel and his team has been exceedingly rewarding, and

their level of innovation has exceeded our expectations. Prof. Seibel and his team have been instrumental in our development success to date, and we look forward to continuing collaborations with the UW researchers.”

To test the technology VisionGate partnered with Dr. Ralph Aye, a thoracic surgeon and the clinical program leader of the thoracic oncology program at the Swedish Cancer Institute, to run a pilot study where they obtained specimens for VisionGate analysis from tumors and from the airways of cancer patients during operations. The company used the Cell-CT device to look for differences between healthy cells and those belonging to people diagnosed with lung cancer. “Lung cancer remains the nation’s number one cancer killer for both men and women, largely due to the late discovery of the cancer. VisionGate’s unique technology for identifying cancer cells in sputum offers real hope to identify lung cancer early, while it’s still potentially curable,” said Dr. Aye. To further test VisionGate’s Cell-CT system, Dr. Aye’s group is working on a new study to collect lung tissue cells derived from sputum samples, involving as many as 100 lung cancer patients.

About UW TechTransfer

Established in 1982, UW TechTransfer facilitates the commercialization of new innovations arising from UW research through the management and licensing of intellectual property. Since the department’s founding, UW TechTransfer has helped create more than 240 companies in Washington state and abroad. In FY08, UW TechTransfer generated \$47 million in total revenue from all sources. Additionally, UW TechTransfer manages a total patent portfolio of over 2,200 issued and pending patents filed in the U.S. and around the world.

Visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/techtran/> for more information.

About VisionGate, Inc.

VisionGate, a privately held corporation in Washington State, has developed the proprietary 3D cell image analysis platform, the Cell-CT, based on the company’s broadly patented technology. The Cell-CT is capable of generating high-resolution 3D information from intact cells for automated analysis of biomarkers and pathology.

Visit: www.visiongate3d.com for more information.

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