Pfizer Logo

deCODE Announces Agreement with Pfizer to Search for Variants in the Human Genome that Confer Risk of Systemic Lupus Erythematosis

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Reykjavik, ICELAND, 12 October 2011 – deCODE genetics today announced that it has entered into a research collaboration with Pfizer Inc., the objective of which is to discover sequence variants associated with specific clinical phenotypes related to Systemic Lupus Erythematosis by utilizing deCODE‘s expertise in gene discovery.

deCODE’s discovery capabilities combine its extensive population and genetic resources, including DNA samples and medical data, complete genealogical information, next generation sequencing technology, and deCODE’s proprietary bioinformatics and statistical capabilities. Over the next 18 months, deCODE and Pfizer will work together to analyse the genomes of patients to search for sequence variants that would be useful for understanding drug targets and discovering novel drug targets, that may ultimately lead to tools for patient stratification and companion diagnostics.

“This agreement is a part of deCODE’s ongoing strategy to unleash the value of human genetics,” said Kari Stefansson, founder and CEO of deCODE, “our research platform allows us to understand the genetic basis of disease and modifiers of clinical phenotypes in actual patient populations; by doing so, we can rapidly move from targets to patient stratification and from there to companion diagnostics.”

The research collaboration will utilize the expertise and capabilities of both deCODE and Pfizer: deCODE’s comprehensive population genetics resources and analytical expertise and Pfizer’s dedication to the application of genomic analysis to the discovery and development of drugs.

About deCODE

Headquartered in Reykjavik, Iceland, deCODE genetics is a global leader in analyzing and understanding the human genome. Using its unique expertise and population resources, deCODE has discovered genetic risk factors for dozens of common diseases ranging from cardiovascular disease to cancer. In order to most rapidly realize the value of genetics for human health, deCODE is currently partnering with life sciences companies to accelerate their target discovery, validation, and prioritization efforts, yielding improved patient stratification for clinical trials and essential companion diagnostics. In addition, through its CLIA- and CAP-certified laboratory, deCODE offers DNA-based tests for gauging risk and empowering prevention of common diseases. deCODE also licenses its tests, intellectual property, and analytical tools to partner organizations. deCODE’s corporate information can be found at www.decode.com with information about our genetic testing services at www.decodehealth.com and www.decodeme.com.