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System Biosciences (SBI) Launches Genome-Wide Human and Mouse siRNA Libraries through a Collaboration with a Consortium of siRNA Researchers Organized by B-Bridge International

Mountain View, CA – May 2, 2005: System Biosciences (SBI) announced that it is offering the first small-interfering RNA (siRNA) libraries that target the entire human and mouse genomes. Each GeneNet™ siRNA Library contains more than a hundred thousand siRNA templates that target 47,400 human or 39,000 mouse transcripts. These libraries enable researchers to screen these organisms' complete genomes, and identify genes whose function is regulating, controlling, or otherwise affecting specific biological processes, such as signaling cascades, apoptosis, cell proliferation, and differentiation. Genes discovered with this approach are candidates for novel drug targets or diagnostic biomarkers. "We believe that the cost-effective, ready-to-use siRNA library format and its compatibility with Affymetrix GeneChip® Arrays for data analysis make the GeneNet Libraries a very practical and useful tool in a wide range of research areas for our partners," says Alex Chenchik, Vice President of R&D at SBI.

Concurrent with the launch, the GeneNet Libraries will be provided to a consortium of Japanese researchers organized by B-Bridge International, a collaborator of SBI. "The collaboration with the B-Bridge consortium will allow us to fast-track market adoption of our genome-wide libraries." stated Enal Razvi, Head of Business Development at SBI.

The B-Bridge consortium consists of research labs from several leading institutes, including Osaka University, Nagoya University, the Japanese National Cancer Center, Tokyo Medical University, Ehime University, the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, the National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology, and the National Institute for Advanced Industrial Sciences (AIST). Each laboratory involved in the consortium pursues different research interests but have partnered to share expertise, data, and techniques to maximally utilize the power for RNAi technology to more rapidly advance their research objectives. B-Bridge International facilitates and manages this exchange by providing research tools, analysis, and experimental data. According to Taka Mizutani, Director of Business Development for B-Bridge, "The SBI libraries will provide our network of researchers with unparalleled ability to analyze function and identify the sets of genes involved in various responses of interest. These libraries enable experiments that are just not possible with a simpler gene-by-gene knockdown approach."

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For more information on B-Bridge International, please visit www.b-bridge.com.**