Bio-Rad Introduces Integrated ADME/TOX Informatics Solution

New System Aims to Reduce Time and Expense of Drug Discovery and Development

February 11, 2003., PHILADELPHIA, PA - Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. (AMEX: BIO and BIO.B), a multinational manufacturer and distributor of life science research products and clinical diagnostics, announced today the newest addition to its award-winning KnowItAll® Informatics System: the KnowItAll ADME/Tox Edition. This product is the first integrated desktop informatics solution for ADME/Tox evaluation and is the result of Bio-Rad's collaboration with ComGenex, Inc. and CompuDrug International, Inc. The KnowItAll ADME/Tox Edition is a fully integrated suite of ADME/Tox Informatics tools aimed at reducing the time and cost involved in drug discovery and development. Over half of the failures in drug development are attributed to problems with a compound's absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, or toxicity (known as ADME/Tox). The KnowItAll ADME/Tox Edition is a valuable tool that can help drug developers avoid millions of dollars of unnecessary R&D costs by enabling them to predict, evaluate, and eliminate unsuitable drug candidates early in the drug discovery process–even before they are synthesized.

"The KnowItAll ADME/Tox Edition combines the best science and technology from Bio-Rad, ComGenex, and CompuDrug," said Gregory M. Banik, Ph.D., General Manager of Bio-Rad's Informatics Division, "I am delighted with our collaboration's first result and look forward to our continued work together."

"We have over 20 years of experience in ADME/Tox evaluation and research," remarked Dr. Ferenc Darvas, founder of CompuDrug. "We are pleased to add this expertise and technology to Bio-Rad's award-winning KnowItAll platform."

The KnowItAll ADME/Tox Edition includes applications to identify compounds with potentially poor absorption profiles, to predict a compound's metabolic fate, and to assess its potential toxicity. The metabolism application incorporates a rule-based system for evaluating metabolism using known bio-transformation pathways collected from extensive in vivo experimentation and can predict multiple metabolic steps, including Phase I and Phase II metabolism. The toxicity application provides assessment of a variety of hazard classes, including carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, teratogenicity, and skin sensitivity. All applications in the KnowItAll ADME/Tox Edition, including modules for building databases, importing and drawing chemical structures, and producing professional, one-click reports, are fully integrated.

"We are pleased with the progress of the agreement that we signed in September of last year," said Dr. Laszlo Urge, CEO of ComGenex. "The fact that we were able to execute the integration process and product launch in such a short period of time from both sides of the Atlantic shows the commitment of ComGenex and Bio-Rad."

Bio-Rad's Informatics Division specializes in state-of-the-art software and database solutions for the pharmaceutical, biotech, and chemical industries. Bio-Rad is the leading publisher of fully verified spectral databases, cheminformatics and spectroscopy software, and decision support systems for drug discovery.

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. (www.bio-rad.com) is a multinational manufacturer and distributor of life science research products and clinical diagnostics. It is based in Hercules, California, and serves more than 70,000 research and industry customers worldwide through a network of more than 30 wholly owned subsidiary offices.

ComGenex, Inc. (www.comgenex.com) is an integrated drug discovery chemistry provider for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. The company is the first and presently the largest independent discovery chemistry supplier in Europe, and a leader in discovery-related ADME services.

CompuDrug International, Inc. (www.compudrug.com) has been developing expert systems and knowledge bases for ADME/Tox and drug discovery since its inception in 1983. Their products combine advanced graphics and modeling techniques with scientific simulation and computation to help researchers understand key structure-activity relationships.

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