



Ontario**Genomics**Institute
The Future is in Our Genes.

OGI News

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OGI invests in Ontario start-up Cytognomix DNA probe technology

Through its Pre-commercialization Business Development Fund (PBDF) program, the Ontario Genomics Institute (OGI) has invested in a London, Ontario start-up company, Cytognomix, to enable the commercial development of novel cytogenetic DNA probes that detect and pinpoint anomalies in the genome at higher resolution than is currently routinely possible. These probes could, in the future, result in more effective disease diagnostics and more tailored treatment for patients.

Drs. Peter Rogan and Joan Knoll, both researchers recently recruited to the University of Western Ontario from the USA, co-founded Cytognomix to develop groundbreaking Single Cell DNA Probes that are much smaller and more densely distributed across chromosomes than probes that are currently commercially available. These fluorescent probes can be designed to specifically target and thereby detect individual chromosomal abnormalities such as those that underlie many forms of cancer.

“Catalyzing the impact of genomics discoveries and technologies through their entry into the marketplace is the primary objective of the PBDF,” said Dr. Christian Burks, President and CEO of OGI. “We are very pleased to be investing in Cytognomix, and look forward to working with its founders as they further develop a tool set that has the potential to deliver on the promise of personalized medicine for a wide range of diseases.”

“The investment from OGI will help us in the development of more probes for more genetic diseases, building on the existing 400 probes for around 100 diseases,” said Dr. Peter Rogan, recently named a Canada Research Chair. “Our long-term goal is to manufacture probes that doctors could use to diagnose literally hundreds of disorders on the spot.”

OGI’s PBDF program invests in opportunities — based in genomics, proteomics or associated technologies — that fall in the proof-of-principle (validation) phase of research and that have the short-term potential to secure a significant next step towards the marketplace. Previous recipients have included Ontario universities, research institutes and companies.

About OGI

The Ontario Genomics Institute (OGI) is a private, not-for-profit corporation focused on using world-class research to create strategic genomics resources and accelerate Ontario’s development of a globally-competitive life sciences sector. Through its relationship with Genome Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation (MRI), and other private and public sector partners, OGI works to: identify, attract and support investment in Ontario-led genomics research; catalyze access to and the impact of genomics resources; and, raise the visibility of genomics as well as its impact and associated issues.

For more information on OGI, please visit www.OntarioGenomics.ca or contact Alastair Harris-Cartwright on +1 (416) 673-6582 or aharrisartwright@OntarioGenomics.ca

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