



MEDIA RELEASE

Research into HIV using Medsaic's DotScan published

Sydney, Australia, 13 May 2005: Medsaic Pty Ltd today announced the publication of its collaborative research into the analysis of peripheral blood from HIV patients using its DotScan technology, in the peer-reviewed medical research journal *Blood*, the journal of the American Society of Hematology.

The paper, entitled 'Conservation of unique cell surface CD antigen mosaics in HIV-1 infected individuals', reported that HIV infection induced a highly-conserved pattern of surface proteins on immune cells. In particular, three cell surface markers were consistently down-regulated as a result of HIV infection and two were consistently up-regulated.

The reported study was a collaboration between Sydney-based Medsaic and ProteinLogic, a Cambridge based biotechnology company operating in the UK. It involved the application of Medsaic's proprietary antibody array technology, DotScan, to the study of cells of the immune system from patients at various clinical stages of HIV infection.

The patient groups, enrolled through hospitals in London where ethical approval had been obtained, consisted of six so-called 'long term non-progressors' who had been diagnosed with HIV infection for more than 10 years without progression of the disease, 10 patients receiving first line antiretroviral therapy and six patients who had undergone several treatments and were currently undergoing salvage therapy. The patients were compared with four normal individuals.

"Many of the changes in cell surface markers seen in this study have not been documented before, demonstrating the diagnostic power of our multiplex DotScan technology," said Chief Executive Officer of Medsaic, Dr Jeremy Chrisp.

"This is international recognition of our technology. We are confident that our DotScan technology has a bright future in clinical medicine for generating disease signatures from patterns of cell surface proteins across a range of diseases," added Dr Chrisp.

Medsaic's DotScan (formerly called LD Array) – was used to determine the immune marker proteins in the surface of white blood cells from the groups. Cell samples were incubated with 87 discriminatory monoclonal antibodies bound to microscope slides. Images of the slides were then processed to indicate the relative number of cells attached to each of the antibody dots and generate a pattern for each participant in the study.

About Medsaic

Medsaic Pty Ltd was formed as a spin-off company from the University of Sydney to commercialise a new platform technology that uses antibody microarrays for the diagnosis of disease by identification of distinctive patterns (mosaics) of proteins.

The company's premises are at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney, Australia. They include laboratories, offices and clean rooms for assembly of Medsaic's diagnostic kits. Medsaic received seed funding from the University of Sydney and a major investment from Symbion Pty Ltd. It also received grants from the COMET, BIF and START schemes of the Commonwealth Government and the BioFirst program of the NSW Department of State and Regional Development. The product for diagnosis of leukaemia and lymphoma using Medsaic's DotScan technology is the first in a suite of tests under development that also includes solid tissue tumours and autoimmune diseases.

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