

## OTHER NEWS TO NOTE

• **AntiCancer Inc.**, of San Diego, said researchers demonstrated that stem cells derived from human hair follicles can repair severed nerves in mice. After stem cells from the hair follicle were injected into the injured nerve, they differentiated into Schwann cells, which promote nerve growth allowing the nerve to rejoin. That work was conducted in collaboration with the Kitasato University School of Medicine in Sagamihara, Kanagawa in Japan.

• **Archemix Corp.**, of Cambridge, Mass., and **Dicerna Pharmaceuticals Inc.**, of Watertown, Mass., agreed to collaborate on aptamer-dicer substrate RNA therapeutics aimed at leveraging the intracellular delivery capabilities of Archemix's aptamers and the gene silencing of Dicerna's DsiRNA molecules. Both companies are investing resources and will work together on R&D activities. The deal includes an option for Dicerna to obtain exclusive rights for further development of products generated during the collaboration. Specific financial details were not disclosed.

• **BioAlliance Pharma SA**, of Paris, signed an agreement to co-promote the antidepressant Seroplex by **H. Lundbeck A/S**, of Copenhagen, Denmark. Their efforts will be aimed at core health care partners, such as oncologists, radiotherapists and hematologists) as part of a comprehensive approach that aligns with France's national guidelines for cancer patients. Financial terms were not disclosed.

• **Cell Therapeutics Inc.**, of Seattle, said researchers from the Laboratory of Molecular Pharmacology at the National Cancer Institute reported preclinical research identifying antitumor mechanisms of brostallicin. That research indicated that the tumor cell DNA damaging effects of brostallicin are enhanced by high tumor glutathione levels, and brostallicin was shown to affect DNA in both dividing and quiescent cells. Data were published in *Molecular Cancer Therapy*. Cell Therapeutics picked up rights to brostallicin in its 2007 acquisition of Tucson,

## Coming Thursday in *BioWorld Perspectives*:

### Of Patents and Cancers: The Implications of the Case Against Myriad

On May 13, 2009, a group of unusual plaintiffs challenged the ability of companies to obtain patent protection for in vitro diagnostic tests. At issue is whether anyone may seek to patent isolated DNA sequences and methods of diagnosing or detecting abnormalities in such sequences. . . . Tune into this week's *BioWorld Perspectives* in which Contributing Writer Michael R. Samardzija discusses the lawsuit brought against Myriad Genetics.

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Ariz.-based **Systems Medicine LLC**.

• **Commonwealth Biotechnologies Inc.**, of Richmond, Va., signed an agreement with **Bostwick Laboratories Inc.**, also of Richmond, for the sale of CBI's Fairfax Identity Laboratories and CBI Services divisions, at a price of \$1.075 million in cash and royalty payments to CBI over a five-year period. In addition, CBI will lease to Bostwick a building in Richmond that houses CBI Services, a discovery phase contract research organization, and Fairfax Identity Laboratories, a DNA reference business. The sale is expected to close in the third fiscal quarter.

• **Compugen Ltd.**, of Tel Aviv, Israel, said CGEN-25017, a peptide antagonist of the angiotensin-converting enzyme-2 pathway, has shown positive therapeutic effects in an animal model of retinopathy, a very serious eye condition characterized by overgrowth of blood vessels. CGEN-25017 previously demonstrated significant inhibitory activity in two other models of angiogenesis, an in vitro multicellular assay and the widely recognized chorioallantoic membrane model.

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