

SEQUENOM MassARRAY(TM) System Used to Identify Diabetes Risk Gene

Independent Study Shows Novel Genetic Association Using Cost-Effective DNA Pooling Strategy

SAN DIEGO, March 31 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- SEQUENOM, Inc. (Nasdaq: SQNM) today announced that its MassARRAY system was used to identify a novel genetic association to diabetes, according to an independent study from the April 2004 issue of the journal Diabetes. A group that included the National Institutes of Health (NIH) used DNA sample pools of affected and healthy individuals to show that the HNF4A gene has a genetic association to adult-onset diabetes.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20011120/SQNMLOGO>)

"These findings validate our MassARRAY system and DNA pooling strategy as a rapid and cost-effective method for customers to discover genetic associations in important diseases," said Toni Schuh, Ph.D., SEQUENOM's President and Chief Executive Officer. "The costs of this study would likely have been prohibitive using competing technologies. Further, due to the inherent flexibility of the MassARRAY system, a large study such as this can move from the conception stage to completed results in just a few weeks. Many customers around the world are using our technology with this approach; this is the first instance where the customer chose to publish their novel association."

According to the NIH study, "DNA pools can be used effectively to estimate differences in SNP allele frequencies between case and control populations." This strategy enables researchers to determine the frequency of a SNP marker in a population by quantitatively pooling hundreds of DNA samples into a single assay. This enables researchers to evaluate SNPs within large patient pools before determining whether to include the SNP markers in individual analyses, eliminating the need to do thousands of additional experiments.

SEQUENOM has used this strategy on a much larger scale to conduct all 12 of its genetic scans of the human genome for major human diseases such as cancer and diabetes. From these scans, the Company now has over 60 replicated genes of similar magnitude, including HNF3B, one of eight novel diabetes genes found in its diabetes program.

The NIH study, entitled "Genetic Variation Near the Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor-4A Gene Predicts Susceptibility to Type 2 Diabetes," appears in the April 2004 issue of Diabetes, a journal of the American Diabetes Association. An abstract of the article may be accessed at <http://diabetes.diabetesjournals.org> .

About SEQUENOM

SEQUENOM is a genetics company organized into two distinct business units: SEQUENOM Genetic Systems and SEQUENOM Pharmaceuticals. The Company has created high-performance DNA analysis technology and a platform that efficiently and precisely measures genetic variation. Both business units capitalize on this platform together with the Company's detailed knowledge of specific genetic variations in humans. SEQUENOM Genetic Systems is dedicated to the sales and support of the Company's platform, called the MassARRAY system, and to the continued expansion of DNA analysis applications for use with this system. SEQUENOM Pharmaceuticals has used MassARRAY technology and the Company's

extensive collections of DNA samples from diseased and healthy individuals to identify disease-related genes that affect the health of significant portions of the population. The information from these studies is used for diagnostic and drug target identification followed by functional testing. The ultimate goals of the Pharmaceuticals business unit are diagnostic and therapeutic product development and commercialization.

SEQUENOM(R) and MassARRAY(TM) are trademarks of SEQUENOM, Inc.

Except for the historical information contained herein, the matters set forth in this press release are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially, including the risks and uncertainties associated with SEQUENOM's technologies, and other risks detailed from time to time in SEQUENOM's SEC reports, including SEQUENOM's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003. These forward-looking statements are based on current information that is likely to change and speak only as of the date hereof.

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