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PRESS RELEASE

The AVESTAGENOME Project™ – A step closer to accurate diagnosis and new therapies for cancer, metabolic and neurological disorders

August 30th 2010: The AVESTAGENOME Project™ today initiated sequencing of a set of 60 closely related human genomes to identify novel genetic information relevant to cancer, metabolic and neurological disorders. Through this project, Avesthagen intends to establish a direct link between genes, genetics and the disorders themselves. It is known that many genes on the human chromosomes may be involved during the manifestation of the above disorders. However, the power of present technologies to discover the causative genes of such disorders is limited. Sequencing the 60 genomes for different disorders will be groundbreaking as analysis of the mammoth 10 terabytes of data generated will enable scientists to discover novel causative genes on the chromosomes which may be indicative of occurrence of cancer, metabolic and neurological disorders. Once completed there will be better understanding of the genetics underlying the diseases. The study will help in identifying new and better drugs, specific for the above-mentioned disorders. The discovery will lead to identifying bio molecules for the accurate prediction of the disease manifestation.

This study is being carried out in partnership with Genome Enterprise Limited, a subsidiary of The Genome Analysis Centre (TGAC), Norwich Research Park, UK. The TGAC team, specialists in DNA sequencing and bioinformatics, will use the SOLiD™ 4 next generation sequencing platform from Applied Biosystems, part of Life Technologies, to generate draft sequence, and will collaborate with the Avesthagen's own bioinformatics experts to analyze and interpret the sequence data

Avesthagen, a Life Sciences Company based in Bangalore aims to facilitate predictive, preventive and personalized approach for diagnosis and treatment for Cancer, metabolic and neurological disorders. Avesthagen has adopted a holistic approach applying state-of-the-art technology to not only come up with therapies, but go one step further in developing the most sensitive means of prediction and diagnosis. In its development program Avesthagen's biopharmaceutical division also has a strong focus and drug portfolio pipeline on oncology and other above-mentioned disorders. Another major breakthrough by the company, in this field is the discovery of novel signature metabolites for Cancer, which is currently in the phase of clinical validation.

Commenting on this development Dr. Viloo Morawala-Patell, Founder and CMD, AVESTHAGEN said, “There are many solutions to treat cancer and other disease but a few to avoid them and this gigantic study aims at a holistic solution that facilitates in predicting the occurrence of Cancer and other disease and consequently provide solutions for treatment after diagnosis.”

Dr. Patell added, “The AVESTAGENOME Project™ was conceptualized with the intent of building a complete genealogical, medical and genetic database of the Parsi population in India but later is being extended to all ethnic groups. This project will determine the genetic basis of longevity and its related disorders. It aims at studying human diseases by bringing together genetic, disease and genealogical data of the Parsi community”.

About Avesthagen Limited - AVESTHAGEN LIMITED (www.avesthagen.com) is India’s leading integrated systems biology platform company that focuses on achieving convergence of food, pharma and population genetics leading to predictive preventive and personalized healthcare. It employs 400 people worldwide and is headquartered in Bangalore. Avesthagen Limited has established world class, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities in Bangalore. It began business operations in 2001. Since its inception Avesthagen has grown into one of India's leading healthcare technology group in India, and its activities include, in addition to its agri-biotechnologies product pipeline, development of clinically validated botanical bioActives, derived from Indian medicinal plants, as well as the development of a pipeline of bio-similar drugs. Avesthagen Limited has four strategic business units: bioPharmaceuticals, bioNutrition, bioAgriculture and Science & Innovation. Its partners include multiple top 10 global companies in each of its fields of research. Avesthagen Limited collaborates at every stage in the value chain with appropriate partners, both public and private, for access to and exchange of technology and overall commercial expertise to leverage the ‘India advantage’.

About the Genome Analysis Centre - THE GENOME ANALYSIS CENTRE (TGAC) is a specialist in sequencing and in bioinformatics for analysis and interpretation of genomic data. The centre is located on the Norwich Research Park; it was established by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council in partnership with the East of England Development Agency, Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council, Norwich City Council and the Greater Norwich Development Partnership.

Genome Enterprise Limited is TGAC’s wholly owned subsidiary, a provider of services in next generation sequencing and bioinformatics.

For more information about Avesthagen and the AVESTAGENOME Project™, please contact:

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