

Press Release

Cytochroma Inc. Issued U.S. Patent For Retinoid Metabolizing Protein

Patent To Further Cytochroma's Proprietary Position In Development Of Treatments For Skin Diseases And Cancer

KINGSTON, Ontario - September 14, 2000 - Cytochroma Inc., announced today that it has been issued United States Patent No. **6,063,606** entitled "Retinoid Metabolizing Protein" with a total of 32 claims. This novel Retinoic Acid-Inducible Cytochrome, named P450RAI, in recognition of its function and inducibility, plays a key role in regulating retinoic acid (vitamin A) metabolism.

By screening compounds which block the activity of the P450RAI enzyme, Cytochroma has identified attractive drug candidates for treatment of a number of disease indications, such as skin diseases and retinoid-sensitive malignancies including breast and prostate cancer.

"The US patent protects a valuable and promising target for drug discovery and contributes significantly to Cytochroma's intellectual property portfolio", stated Dr. Robert Foldes, President and CEO of Cytochroma. "Cytochroma has already made major strides towards the identification of a lead compound for preclinical development."

The original discovery of P450RAI was made in the laboratories of Dr. Martin Petkovich and Dr. Glenville Jones, Queen's University and is licensed through PARTEQ Innovations to Cytochroma Inc. In 1999, Cytochroma Inc. and Allergan, Inc. formed an alliance, valued at US \$5 million, to discover, develop and commercialize inhibitors of vitamin A metabolism for use in treatment of acne, psoriasis and age-related skin conditions, and other dermatological indications.

Founded in 1997, Cytochroma Inc. is the leading biotechnology company focused on the identification and development of drugs based on the action of cytochrome P450 enzymes.