

## Press Release

### Cytochroma Inc. Discovers Functional Role For An Orphan Cytochrome P450

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#### *Possible New Molecular Target For Regulating Thymus Function*

**KINGSTON, Ontario, Canada – November 15, 2001 - Cytochroma Inc.**, announced today that it has discovered the enzymatic function, including substrate and metabolic products, of human cytochrome P450TEC (Thymus Expressed Cytochrome) and uncovered its potential role in thymus function. This enzyme was discovered using Cytochroma's internal bioinformatics capabilities and has served as the first application of Cytochroma's LIPIDOMICS™ technology to discover the function of orphan cytochrome P450s. Cytochroma had focused its protein function identification efforts on this cytochrome P450 because of its unique tissue expression profile in adult human thymus.

Cytochroma demonstrated that P450TEC specifically metabolizes arachidonic acid but not related compounds. Arachidonic acid metabolites are critical signaling modulators of many physiological processes. Since the thymus is largely responsible for immune function, modulation of P450TEC may have important benefits in diseases where the immune system is challenged. Cytochroma has filed patent applications covering various aspects of P450TEC and is currently continuing to characterize the biological effects in thymus of the discrete arachidonic acid metabolites resulting from P450TEC activity.

"This discovery emphasizes Cytochroma's expertise in areas spanning gene discovery and determining protein function," stated Dr. Robert Foldes, President & CEO. "Cytochroma is currently investigating multiple orphan cytochrome P450s which it believes have the potential to be validated as new molecular targets for its growing pipeline of drug discovery efforts."

"P450TEC provides us with a completely new strategy to modulate arachidonic acid metabolism in a tissue-specific fashion and furthermore validates our LIPIDOMICS™ platform", stated Dr. Glenville Jones, Co-Chief Scientific Officer at Cytochroma.

LIPIDOMICS™ technology is based on high-resolution lipid profiling using liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry. LIPIDOMICS™ is a tool for the identification of novel cytochrome P450 substrates and has applications as a complement to genomics and proteomics technologies in deciphering mechanisms underlying biological processes.

Cytochroma Inc. is an applied genomics and drug discovery company. It is a world leader in the discovery of cytochrome P450 genes, the identification of the function of the proteins encoded by those genes, and the discovery of highly potent and specific drugs regulating cytochrome P450 enzymes to address unmet medical needs. To date, Cytochroma's drug discovery program has identified modulators of retinoic acid and calcitriol metabolism as drug candidates for the treatment of skin diseases, cancer and bone disorders.

