

## Press Release

### **Cytochroma Inc. Licenses Novel Chemical Compounds From Johns Hopkins University**

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#### ***Drug Design Collaboration To Optimize Potent And Selective Cytochrome P450 Enzyme Inhibitors For The Treatment Of Cancer, Osteoporosis And Psoriasis***

**KINGSTON, Ontario - December 5, 2000 - Cytochroma Inc.**, announced today the signing of research and license agreements with **Johns Hopkins University**. The license agreement grants exclusive worldwide rights to Cytochroma to commercialize an intellectual property portfolio relating to non-calcemic, antiproliferative and transcriptionally-active vitamin D analogs as well as new intellectual property arising from the research collaboration between the parties. The collaboration will focus on the discovery and design of vitamin D-related compounds which inhibit the activity of CYP24, the cytochrome P450 enzyme that normally breaks down vitamin D. Several analogs have already been identified as potent and selective inhibitors of CYP24 using Cytochroma's proprietary assays and lead compounds will be selected for testing in animal models before the end of 2001.

Internationally recognized researcher, Dr. Gary Posner, Scowe Professor of Chemistry at Johns Hopkins University, is responsible for the chemical synthesis of the vitamin D analogs. "The collaboration between our laboratory and Cytochroma Inc. is a unique opportunity to utilize a novel approach in the design of synthetic compounds for the treatment of several vitamin D-related diseases, such as cancer, osteoporosis and psoriasis," stated Dr. Posner.

"Vitamin D plays a vital role in maintaining calcium levels in the body and in the regulation of cell proliferation and cell differentiation," stated Dr. Glenville Jones, Co-Chief Scientific Officer responsible for the vitamin D program at Cytochroma. "We have every confidence this approach will lead to new drug candidates to treat malignancies which overexpress CYP24, such as prostate, breast and lung cancer."

"This partnership provides Cytochroma with important drug design capabilities for one of its key programs," stated Dr. Robert Foldes, President & CEO of Cytochroma. "With our expertise and insight in vitamin D metabolism and cytochrome P450 drug design, the result of this collaboration will provide Cytochroma with its first proprietary small molecule for drug development."

Founded in 1996, Cytochroma Inc. is the leading biotechnology company focused on the identification and development of drugs based on the action of cytochrome P450 enzymes. To date, Cytochroma's drug discovery program has identified modulators of vitamin A and vitamin D metabolism as drug candidates for the treatment of skin diseases, cancer and bone disorders.

