GenPro Selected to Lead Epigenetic Profiling on Multi-Company Multi-Institution Team Formed to Discover New Precision Medicine Hypotheses for Undiagnosed Diseases

Precision Medicine Put to the Test: UnDx Consortium Gathers to Examine New Hypotheses for Undiagnosed Patients

Consortium Gathers in San Diego to Create New Paths to Identifying Currently Undiagnosed Illnesses

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SAN DIEGO, Aug. 15, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Imagine suffering from a cold for over seven and a half years. If you are one of the estimated 350 million patients that suffer from a rare disease, that's the average length of time it currently takes for the U.S. medical community to diagnose your ailment. And, if you are more severely ill, deathly ill, doctors may have no idea why you are sick or, worse yet, what to do.

That's the genesis of the UnDx Consortium™. This organization brings together five precision medicine technology providers and prominent experts from medical centers and universities across the country to collaborate in an effort to produce new hypotheses for a set of six patients struggling with undiagnosed diseases. In a meeting today and tomorrow in San Diego, the UnDx Consortium will explore results of cutting-edge tests analyzing samples from these patients and their families.

"It has been 13 years since science mapped the human genome, but the promise of personalized medicine remains largely unfulfilled," says Douglas Jamison, co-organizer of the UnDx Consortium and Chairman of Interome Inc. "Genetics alone is not enough to provide the answers we need. We believe there may be opportunities by applying precision medicine technologies in a multidisciplinary approach that, combined with gene sequencing, will offer new insights on these difficult medical cases."

The UnDx Consortium is an initiative of precision medicine technology companies and scientists to explore how a multidisciplinary approach to precision medicine can provide information and answers for patients with undiagnosed diseases. Today's meeting is the beginning of what is expected to evolve into an ongoing forum to explore the potential of combining precision medicine technologies to diagnose and treat disease.

The five technology providers that have donated their services to the UnDx Consortium include:

- **Genome Profiling, LLC** of Wilmington, DE, providing epigenetic analysis;
- **The Lab of Rob Knight and the American Gut Project** at the University of California San Diego (UCSD), providing microbiome analysis;
- **KromaTiD, Inc.** of Fort Collins, CO, providing a chromosomal imaging platform for the detection of chromosomal rearrangements
- **Metabolon, Inc.** of Durham, NC, providing metabolomic analysis; and
- **ORIG3N, Inc.** of Boston, MA, providing both the sample collection and stem cell analysis.

The main question addressed by the UnDx Consortium is whether the contextual information provided by precision medicine technologies can be used in conjunction with genomic information to provide further hypotheses to the six patients covered in the documentary, *Undiagnosed: Medical Refugees*, and perhaps become a model to help other undiagnosed patients. The contextual information will complement genomic analyses previously performed in the CLARITY Undiagnosed Challenge, a virtual medical crowdsourcing effort established in conjunction with Boston Children's and Harvard's CLARITY Challenge, in an attempt to diagnose five patients whose undiagnosed odyssey was chronicled by the documentary *Undiagnosed: Medical Refugees*. The CLARITY Undiagnosed Challenge focused on combining the best methods for genomic sequence interpretation with clinical expertise.

The UnDx Consortium resulted from several conversations between Dr. Katia Moritz and Doug Jamison sparked by an early screening of the Undiagnosed documentary at the Strategic News Service™ Future In Review® conference in late 2015. The documentary filmmakers had been collaborating with Dr. Isaac Kohane, principal investigator for the Undiagnosed Diseases Network Coordinating Center, Boston Children's Hospital's Manton Center for Orphan Disease Research, the Harvard Medical School's Center for Biomedical Informatics, and Illumina, Inc., to launch a project titled the CLARITY Undiagnosed Challenge.

The UnDx Consortium is sponsored by Interome Inc.

About the UnDx Consortium

Piloting its work with six patients with undiagnosed diseases, the UnDx Consortium aims to provide metabolomic, microbiome, epigenetic, stem cell and chromosomal imaging information that could be helpful in diagnosing their diseases. The purpose of the UnDx Consortium is to bring this additional precision medicine information to these undiagnosed patients, and, in a collaborative process, combine this information with genomic and clinical data in order to present new hypotheses and answers. By marrying genomic data with phenotypic and contextual information, the UnDx Consortium believes undiagnosed disease patients can get new information about their diseases, and, more importantly, acquire knowledge that could assist them in managing their illnesses and/or guide their next steps in searching for a diagnosis.

About Interome, Inc. Interome was founded by Harris & Harris Group, Inc., during the first quarter of 2016. Interome's goal is to combine multiple types of genotypic, phenotypic and physiological information on a platform that acts as the engine to organize, integrate, interpret and create interoperability between the consumer and the different requirements that exist within the clinical setting. Interome focuses on the markets of undiagnosed disease and elite athletic training and is working with top researchers and clinicians, as well as companies such as Metabolon, ORIG3N, Genomic Profiling, and Muses Labs, to provide information that can aid undiagnosed disease patients and athletes.

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