



Press release

Lausanne, 11 October 2013

Quartz Bio Qualifies MegaClust for Clinical Flow Cytometry Data Analysis

Quartz Bio SA announced today very positive results for MegaClust, the platform developed jointly with the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics and Geneva Bioinformatics (GeneBio) SA for the analysis of flow cytometry data.

The MegaClust analysis platform was developed and implemented to provide unprecedented unbiased in-depth analysis of flow cytometry data. Flow cytometry is becoming indispensable in assessing the safety and efficacy of drugs in clinical trials and also a means to identify biomarkers for patient stratification. Up to now, such analysis was a hurdle for pharmaceutical companies and clinical research organisations, as clinical flow cytometry experiments generally contain a large number of samples collected from multiple sources, making the curation and manual analysis time consuming, not systematic, and therefore error-prone.

Resulting from a joint effort between Quartz Bio, the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics and GeneBio, MegaClust allows today to perform an automated, unbiased and thorough identification of phenotypically similar cell populations in large datasets consisting of many samples. The technology allows reliable quantitative cross sample analyses and therefore provides a very powerful tool to stratify individuals and/or to analyze variations in cell subpopulations upon stimulations and candidate treatments. "We have benchmarked MegaClust performance against clinical standards for flow cytometry data analysis and are very impressed," said Jérôme Wojcik, founder and CEO of Quartz Bio. "MegaClust achieved comparable quality as manual gating strategies and was in addition capable of identifying additional Quality Control problems undetected by classical approaches. We believe that the automated and systematic quality control of all files of a flow cytometry experiment enabled by MegaClust is the first instrumental step for a high-quality analysis. For those reasons, we are excited to keep collaborating with SIB and GeneBio in order to support our customer's Precision Medicine projects with MegaClust".

Announced earlier this year, this collaboration which brings together Quartz Bio's expertise in clinical data analysis and the bioinformatics expertise of SIB reflects once more the need to join forces and expertises to analyse the increasing amount of life science data produced today and pave the way to new breakthroughs. "We are delighted by the conclusion of the MegaClust validation performed by Quartz Bio as it highlights the benefit of a robust, state of the art technology developed by SIB," said Ioannis Xenarios, director of Vital-IT.

MegaClust is financially supported by the Commission for Technology and Innovation (KTI/CTI), the innovation promotion agency of the Swiss Confederation.



About SIB

SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics is an academic not-for-profit foundation recognized of public utility. It federates bioinformatics activities throughout Switzerland. Its two-fold mission is to provide world-class core bioinformatics resources to the national and international life science research community in key fields such as genomics, proteomics and systems biology; as well as to lead and coordinate the field of bioinformatics in Switzerland. It has a long-standing tradition of producing state-of-the-art software for the life science research community, as well as carefully annotated databases. SIB includes 46 world-class research and service groups, which gather more than 650 researchers, in the fields of proteomics, transcriptomics, genomics, systems biology, structural bioinformatics, evolutionary bioinformatics, modelling, imaging, biophysics, and population genetics in Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Lugano and Zurich. SIB's expertise is widely appreciated and its services are used by life sciences researchers worldwide.

<http://www.isb-sib.ch>

About GeneBio

Geneva Bioinformatics (GeneBio) SA is a leading bioinformatics company established in 1997 and providing the life science community with world-class solutions that bridge the gap between information gathering and knowledge generation. It specialises in the development of software platforms and knowledgebases targeted at small molecules screening and protein research. Primarily, GeneBio acts as the Technology Transfer Office of the SIB of which it is one of the founding partners. For more information about GeneBio, please visit: <http://www.genebio.com> /

<http://megaclust.vital-it.ch>

About Quartz Bio

Quartz Bio SA is a clinical bioinformatics service company specialized in exploratory biomarker data analyses for the generation of stratified medicine hypotheses. Quartz Bio provides modular data analysis services to support the major steps of the biomarker development process. These include: biomarker study design, biomarker data quality control, statistical analysis and scientific reporting. The capital of the company is entirely owned by its employees, who are scientists from diverse educational backgrounds with a common track record of 6 to 10 years clinical bioinformatics experience in the pharmaceutical sector. Quartz Bio is a spin-off of the Merck Serono enterprise partnership program.

<http://www.quartzbio.com>

Contacts:

SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics:

Irène Perovsek

Head of Communications

SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics

Quartier Sorge - Bâtiment Génopode, 1015 Lausanne

+41 21 692 40 54 / +41 (0)78 876 11 29



GeneBio

Mr. Nasri Nahas
CEO
info@genebio.com

Quartz Bio:

Dr. Jérôme Wojcik
CEO
info@quartzbio.com
Tel. +41 22 552 04 70