



EPIDAUROS Biotechnologie AG has licensed in gene variant from LGC Ltd. (UK)

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Bernried, Germany - July 23, 2003 - EPIDAUROS Biotechnologie AG, a pharmacogenetics company located in Bernried near Munich has acquired a non-exclusive licence for the diagnostic use of one of the most important genetic variants of the cytochrome P450 2D6 gene. Licensor of this variant, named *CYP2D6*4*, is LGC Ltd. located in Teddington/Middlesex (www.lgc.co.uk) the UK's leading independent analytical laboratory, which is also active in the field of knowledge transfer. The cytochrome P450 2D6 gene encodes a specific liver enzyme, which during treatment with pain-killers and antidepressants metabolises these drugs. "The metabolism of drugs is disturbed in patients with the genetic variant *CYP2D6*4*," said Dr. Manfred Zoltobrocki, CEO of EPIDAUROS Biotechnologie AG and he adds: "Patients cannot be treated successfully with these medications or they exhibit adverse reactions when they take these drugs. The variant we have licensed is of great importance because with its diagnosis we identify so called poor metabolizers." Genotyping tests for this particular genetic variant provide an excellent tool for the pharmaceutical and diagnostic industry to detect, at an early stage, individual genetic profiles of patients. With these profiles individualized drug therapies can be advised or results of clinical studies can be assessed resulting in improved safety for the individual patient.

EPIDAUROS offers genotyping tests also in the area of drug transport. By use of the proprietary MDR1 genotyping test to detect a specific genetic variant of a polymorphism in the drug transporter gene MDR1 it is possible, based on the individual genetic profile of the patient, to determine before medication whether or not a potentially useful drug will show the desired efficacy. "Based on the licence for the genetic variant *CYP2D6*4* we will continue to strengthen our portfolio of genotyping tests for the pharmaceutical and diagnostic industry. We are convinced that the importance of individual genetic profiles of patient will continuously grow," said Dr. Zoltobrocki.

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Company portrait of EPIDAUROS Biotechnologie AG (www.epidauros.com)

EPIDAUROS Biotechnologie AG is a leading pharmacogenetics company that investigates the genetic factors influencing a person's response to a drug in order to make drug development and therapy safer and more efficient. Its aim is the "personalized drug" that is customized to the genetic profile of each patient. EPIDAUROS investigates and characterizes variations of genes (polymorphisms) that encode for drug transporter proteins and for drug metabolising enzymes. In addition, EPIDAUROS investigates genes encoding drug targets.

EPIDAUROS offers pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies a comprehensive package of proprietary pharmacogenetic assays and services, which will significantly improve the results of clinical studies and drug treatment. EPIDAUROS develops profiling assays which help to pharmacogenetically characterize compounds in the pre-clinical phase of drug development and therefore to evaluate their success rate. Using EPIDAUROS' pharmacogenetic profiling assays, patients can be selected based on their genetic profiles during clinical phases. These tests minimize the possibility that a patient will receive an ineffective drug treatment or one that will cause adverse reactions.