

BIO-INVESTIGATIONS LTD.

Stewart Rosenberg • President • 32 Country Way • Madison, CT 06443 U.S.A.
Phone/Fax (203) 421-3697



NEWS RELEASE

EDS: DEKALB GENETICS /MONSANTO ACQUIRE WORLDWIDE LICENSE FOR UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT'S INTERFERON TECHNOLOGY

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Philip Marcus	UCONN Principal Investigator	(860) 486-4254
Dr. Margaret Sekellick	UCONN Principal Investigator	(860) 486-4635
Dr. Charles Goodwin	UCONN Director-Tech Licensing	(860) 679-4536
Dr. Alan Kriz	Monsanto Global Seed Group	(860) 572-5200
Mr. Stewart Rosenberg	BIO-INVESTIGATIONS LTD. – President	(203) 421-3697

18 January 1999

MADISON, CT United States of America - - - - Stewart Rosenberg, President of BIO-INVESTIGATIONS LTD., has announced that agreements have been signed by The University of Connecticut, with major research facilities located in Storrs and Farmington, Connecticut; DEKALB Genetics Corporation, with principal offices in DeKalb, Illinois and now a member of the Monsanto Global Seed Group; and BIO-INVESTIGATIONS LTD.

..... Continued

DEKALB GENETICS/MONSANTO ACQUIRE WORLDWIDE LICENSE.....

DEKALB Genetics Corporation, a member of the Monsanto Global Seed Group, has received an exclusive worldwide license to develop and market corn that may combat virus infection within poultry. The license allows DEKALB, and now the Monsanto Global Seed Group, access to chicken interferon technology that is exclusively licensed by BIO-INVESTIGATIONS LTD and was developed by the University of Connecticut.

Corn with sufficient levels of interferon may serve as an alternative or adjunct to vaccines as a means of combating virus infection within poultry. Interferons (IFN) represent a family of cytokines with a wide range of biological effects, including their action as antiviral agents and as modulators of the immune system. In contrast to antibodies elicited by vaccines, IFN may protect cells from the lethal action of a broad spectrum of viruses even after those viruses have entered a cell. The University of Connecticut has developed a technology based on chicken interferon.

The lead scientists at the University of Connecticut are Dr. Margaret Sekellick and Dr. Philip Marcus of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. “Drs. Philip Marcus and Margaret Sekellick of the University of Connecticut have proven themselves to be outstanding researchers in the interferon field,” indicated Rosenberg. “When one combines their scientific expertise and capabilities as the technology’s inventors, with the proprietary position held by the University on the discovery, and then adds the worldwide leadership position in agricultural biotechnology of DEKALB and the Monsanto Seed Group, we are optimistic that there will be some significant advances in the poultry industry as a result of this technology.”

The University of Connecticut is a public institution of higher education and is Connecticut’s only public research institution. Through its main campus in Storrs, CT and its health center with both a medical and dental school, headquartered in Farmington, UCONN conducts extensive research in the fields of both basic and clinical human medicine, veterinary sciences, biotechnology, engineering, and a wide array of applied sciences. In 1997, UCONN received approximately \$51 million from the federal government for research and more than \$7 million from industry.

BIO-INVESTIGATIONS LTD. holds the worldwide exclusive license in the field to this technology direct from the University of Connecticut. A venture capital firm heavily focused in the fields of human, veterinary, and agricultural health care, BIO-INVESTIGATIONS LTD. maintains relationships with universities and corporations worldwide. The firm often takes positions in innovative technologies in the form of exclusive options or worldwide licenses.

..... Continued

DEKALB GENETICS/MONSANTO ACQUIRE WORLDWIDE LICENSE.....

DEKALB Genetics Corporation was recently made a part of the Monsanto Global Seed Group. The global seed business is central to Monsanto's future agricultural business strategy.

"We are building a preeminent seed business capable of delivering elite germplasm coupled with cutting-edge technology to help growers improve their productivity and to meet ever-growing world food demands," said Bruce Bickner, co-president for the Monsanto Global Seed Group. DEKALB was the first company to genetically transform corn and emerged as a leader in the field of agricultural biotechnology.

As a life sciences company, Monsanto is committed to finding solutions to the growing global needs for food and health by sharing common forms of science and technology among agriculture, nutrition and health. The company's more than 30,000 employees worldwide make and market high-value agricultural products, pharmaceuticals and food ingredients.

END