

Target Finding & Proteomics at Celera

December 19, 2002—On December 17, 2002, Celera shared some key elements of its new business plan with the public. Common themes of this plan included focus, integration, and increased discovery collaboration with Celera Diagnostics. These themes are all reflected in Celera's revised approach to target finding and proteomics. The balance of R&D spending is now shifting towards preclinical and clinical development. While some resources are being reallocated from target identification to development, Celera's commitment to target finding remains significant. For target finding and validation, Celera Genomics has access to comparative genetics, proteomics, genotyping and gene expression platforms integrated through bioinformatics. Its proteomics effort integrates cell biology, protein chemistry, mass spectrometry and informatics to identify proteins that are over or under expressed in a disease state.

Under the new plan, Celera Genomics has focused its proteomics effort exclusively towards the identification of differentially expressed cell surface proteins. This class of proteins is believed to represent the most promising targets for near term drug candidates

Other changes are occurring within the proteomics group as Celera's revised strategy is implemented. Some informatics and mass spectrometry team members are being reassigned to other programs, and up to ten positions may be eliminated. Separately, Dr. Scott Patterson, who helped build the proteomics department, has decided to pursue opportunities outside of Celera.

Celera Genomics has already validated its proteomics target discovery platform by identifying differentially expressed proteins on the surface of pancreatic cancer cell lines. These proteins are undergoing further validation to confirm their viability as targets. The proteomics effort is currently focused on lung cancer, and should move on to colon cancer in the coming months.