



## **LENTIGEN CORPORATION FACT SHEET**

### **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**

Founded in 2004, Lentigen is dedicated to advancing biomedicine and improving human health by the development and provision of Biotherapeutics, Vaccines & Research Products. The company intends to become a leader in the development of such Biologic Products using its proprietary Lentiviral Vector (LV) technology, widely recognized by the scientific community as the most efficient method for stable gene delivery into cells. Under the direction of an experienced management team, Lentigen has established a strong intellectual property position in the area of LV technology. The combination of strong academic and corporate collaborations that support a robust proprietary pipeline will fuel company growth, while a diversity of funding models and business opportunities will mitigate risk.

### **THE LENTIVIRAL VECTOR ADVANTAGE**

Lentiviral vectors (LVs), like those derived from HIV, are created by removing potentially harmful elements and replacing them with therapeutic genes or genetic sequences of interest. In contrast to other vector systems, Lentiviral vectors are the only ones that can deliver genes with high efficiency stably into a wide variety of cells. For example, DNA vectors have limited utility as the genes they deliver are only retained in the transfected cells for a short period of time. Adeno-Associated viral vectors can efficiently deliver genes for long periods of time in cells that don't divide (e.g. brain and muscle cells), but gene expression is lost in dividing cells such as bone marrow stem cells and blood cells. While Retroviral vectors can deliver genes into a wide number of cell types and achieve long term expression, this vector class suffers from safety issues and the lack of highly efficient gene delivery. Only Lentiviral vectors can efficiently deliver genes or gene sequences to all cell types efficiently and permit their expression for long periods of time with low genetic risk. The LV advantage is their ability to be efficiently applied in every endeavor involving gene delivery, in contrast to other vector systems which have limitations in one respect or another, depending upon the specific application.

### **BIOTHERAPEUTICS & VACCINE DEVELOPMENT**

Lentigen is pursuing an increasing number of biotherapeutic and vaccine targets for diseases of high unmet need. The company's top programs focus upon T cell gene delivery, stem cell gene delivery and gene delivery into cell lines used for biologics (vaccines and proteins) manufacturing.

**SOMATIC CELL THERAPY FOR GRAFT Vs. HOST DISEASE (GVHD):** Allogeneic transplantation (taking blood cells from a partially matched donor into a recipient patient) is curative for many forms of leukemia and lymphoma. However, in as many as half of patients, the same cells that kill the cancer cells start attacking the patients normal cells, causing GVHD. This can be a very serious disease with high mortality. It is the main reason why allogeneic transplantation is not used more broadly for the treatment of blood cancers and other diseases. Lentigen has developed a Lentiviral vector (LG690) that expresses a safety gene called TMPK which can switch off the disease effects of allogeneic transplantation should GVHD ensue enabling subsequent rounds of transplantation. Lentigen anticipates LG690 will enter Phase I clinical trials in 2009.

**STEM CELL THERAPY FOR BRAIN CANCER:** Glioblastoma is a serious tumor of the brain with a poor prognosis for patients diagnosed with the disease (40 week median survival). Temozolomide (TMZ), in combination with radiation therapy, is a drug that can effectively treat the disease. However, TMZ is toxic to the bone marrow stem cells at high doses or for prolonged treatment durations, limiting the efficacy of the therapy. Lentigen has developed LG631, which protects the stem cells from the toxic effects of TMZ, potentially allowing for more efficacious therapy with TMZ. Lentigen anticipates that LG631 will enter Phase I clinical trials in 2009.

## **BUSINESS STRATEGY & FINANCING**

Lentigen has four strategic goals:

- Developing and commercializing proprietary biotherapeutics/vaccines in areas of high unmet need
- Collaborating with partners for the manufacture of LV products and services
- Maintaining and expanding a strong intellectual property position in relevant business sectors

Diversified financing will mitigate risk:

- Foundational, SBIR and other grant funding for discovery research
- Venture funding for pipeline and general development
- Manufacturing for collaborators (proprietary pipeline and co-development)
- Original Biologics Manufacturer (OBM) for third parties (Invitrogen, ThermoFisher Scientific)
- Revenue from licensing of the Lentigen intellectual property estate
- Opportunities to partner or out-license selected projects from the Lentigen pipeline.

## **CURRENT COLLABORATIONS**

Lentigen is collaborating extensively with academic and government institutions plus selected companies to broadly develop its Lentiviral Vector technology. Areas of collaboration include discovery research products, biotherapeutic proteins, vaccines and gene therapies. Some current key collaborators include:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	National Cancer Institute
University of Pennsylvania	NIH
US Army, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center	Case Western Reserve University
University of Wisconsin	Invitrogen
ThermoFisher Scientific (Dharmacon)	

## **KEY COMPANY INFORMATION**

Company: Lentigen Corporation

No. Employees: 34

Corporate Headquarters: Gaithersburg, MD

Lentigen Corporation is a privately held company, incorporated in Delaware in 2004

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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## **MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Tim Ravenscroft, Chief Executive Officer

Boro Dropulic, Ph.D. M.B.A, President and Chief Scientific Officer

Jim Meade, Ph.D., CLP, Vice President, Corporate Development

Thom Stineman, Senior Director, Process Development and Manufacturing

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

David S. Wetherell, Chairman, Lentigen & Managing Partner, Greenwich Biotechnology Partners

Tim Ravenscroft, CEO, Lentigen Corporation

Boro Dropulic, Ph.D., MBA, Founder, President and Chief Scientific Officer, Lentigen Corporation

Robert Breyer, Former CEO, Alkermes

Barrie J. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and C.S.O., Targeted Genetics Corporation

Doug Lind, MD, Managing Partner, Greenwich Biotechnology Partners

John (Jack) McMullen, JD, MBA, Managing Principal, Cambridge Meridian Group