



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Population Genetics Technologies Ltd (PopGenTech) Receives £800,000 Award for Population Study on Alzheimer's Disease Predisposition

Population Genetics Technologies Ltd (PopGenTech) announced today that it has received a **£800,000** Translation Award from the Wellcome Trust to conduct a large scale, two-year study of genetic predisposition to Alzheimer's Disease ("AD") in collaboration with Cardiff University in Wales.

PopGenTech has developed proprietary technologies that will reduce dramatically the costs of performing large-scale population studies on Next Generation Sequencing platforms while allowing the detection and characterization of rare allelic variations in disease phenotypes. The company believes that its technologies, when broadly adopted, will have a significant impact on discovery, biomarker identification, diagnostic and personalized medicine workflows.

PopGenTech will screen AD patients for specific genes that were identified in recent large-scale genome-wide analyses of common genetic variants by Cardiff University and its fellow collaborators. The new study will use DNA samples, carefully chosen by scientists led by Professor Julie Williams at the Cardiff University MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics, from populations of AD patients. The work will focus on genetic regions that involve pathways believed to be involved in AD pathology. The results are expected to validate the PopGenTech methods while providing Cardiff University with information on previously undetected rare genetic variants. Such rare variants could not only suggest possible targets for the development of future therapies but they can also provide additional objective markers for diagnosing predisposition and, when appropriate, guiding treatment strategies.

Commenting on the award Mel Kronick, President and CEO of PopGenTech said, "We are grateful to the Wellcome Trust for this award and excited about working with Professor Julie Williams and her team to elucidate the involvement of rare allelic variants in the development and progression of this important disease. We are very happy to be applying our proprietary technologies to studies that, until now, have been virtually impossible in most labs for reasons of time and cost. Following as it does a recent U.K. National Health Service award for the study of breast cancer, this study further illustrates the benefit that our approaches can bring to clinical and pharmacogenetic research programmes."

Ted Bianco, Director of Technology Transfer at the Wellcome Trust, added: "PopGenTech's technologies have the potential to greatly reduce the cost of large-scale genetic studies, making them a more feasible option for more laboratories. We are pleased to support this project and we hope that it will help to accelerate discovery in this important area of research, to ultimately improve our understanding of the genetics of disease."

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About Population Genetics Technologies Ltd

Population Genetics Technologies Ltd was founded in 2005 by Nobel Laureate Dr Sydney Brenner; the founder of Applied Biosystems and of Lynx Therapeutics, Dr Sam Eletr; and the founder of Molecular Tool and Red Abbey Ventures, Dr Philip Goelet. The company has developed proprietary technologies that will radically transform the economic viability of performing large scale genetic population studies and allow the detection and characterization of rare allelic variants increasingly thought to play a major role in the development of many disease states.

About the Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. It supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. The Trust's breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests.

www.wellcome.ac.uk

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