

Pharmigene Secures Patents Related to Genetic-Based Methods to Fight Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TENS) in United States, Europe, Australia, Singapore, and Taiwan

Palo Alto, CA – November 16, 2010 – Pharmigene, a leader in advancing personalized medicine and reducing severe adverse reactions to drugs through genetic-based diagnostic solutions, today announced it has been granted patents in the United States, Europe, Australia, Singapore and Taiwan. The patents cover methods to detect the presence of key genetic alleles in individual patients being considered for treatment with drugs that have been linked to the development of adverse drug reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis.

SJS, and TENS, a more severe form of SJS, are potentially life-threatening and handicapping skin diseases which are triggered by cell death. Once diagnosed with the disease, patients are treated with supportive care treatment similar to patients with thermal burn injuries since there are currently no other accepted medical treatments. The supportive care treatments often include days to weeks of hospitalization with no guarantee of recovery.

A research team lead by Dr. YT Chen has discovered that patients who possess the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) alleles, HLA-B*5801 or HLA-B*1502, have a hundred to a thousand fold higher risk of developing SJS or TENS when given certain drugs. These drugs are commonly used to treat diseases such as gout, cancer patients with hyperuricemia, as well as patients with epilepsy, trigeminal neuralgia, and bipolar disorder.

“This discovery enables patients and their doctors to select the best treatment without exposing patients to increased risk of SJS and TENS,” commented Dr. Luke Chen, CEO of Pharmigene. “The award of these patents in key areas of the globe, and pending applications in other areas, including China, moves us one step closer to realizing Pharmigene’s goals of bettering patient care and positively impacting the world’s healthcare system,” he added.

About Pharmigene

Pharmigene’s mission (www.pharmigene.com) is to improve personal health and advance personalized medicine by providing genetic-based diagnostic solutions that enable individuals to become more informed about their genetic makeup and allow them and their healthcare professionals to make better health decisions. Pharmigene was founded in 2005 with exclusive worldwide intellectual property rights related to warfarin sensitivity and other adverse drug reactions from Academia Sinica in Taiwan. Currently Pharmigene has offices in Palo Alto, California, as well as offices and a research and GMP/ISO manufacturing facility in Taiwan.

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