



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FSMA AND INVITROGEN PARTNER TO INVESTIGATE MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY

LIBERTYVILLE, IL. and CARLSBAD, CA., Dec. 21, 2005 -- Invitrogen Corporation and Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (FSMA) today announced a new collaboration to identify biological targets that are linked to the causes and symptoms of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). Financial terms of the collaboration were not disclosed. SMA is a genetic disorder that causes a chronic deficiency in the production of the Survival Motor Neuron (SMN) protein. This protein is essential to the proper functioning of the motor neurons that originate in the spinal cord, as well as control of muscles in the limbs, neck and chest. In the United States alone there are more than seven million carriers of the genetic risk factors for SMA--and the disease affects approximately one in every 6,000 live births. SMA is usually diagnosed at less than 18 months of age.

The initial stages of this collaboration will be performed by Invitrogen scientists utilizing the company's proprietary ProtoArray™ protein microarray technology. Approximately 3,000 human proteins and 5,000 yeast proteins will be rapidly screened as potential targets for SMA therapeutic intervention. This work will build upon the successful identification of compounds that up-regulate SMN levels in an ongoing FSMA sponsored drug discovery program at deCODE Genetics.

“Successful identification of a target will lead to a better understanding of the biological processes that occur in the human body associated with this debilitating and often fatal disease,” says Jill Jarecki, Ph.D. Families of SMA Research Director. “We hope that the discovery and characterization of critical protein targets and their associated pathways will lead to new drug discovery avenues and ultimately to novel therapeutic approaches to treat SMA.” FSMA and Invitrogen have agreed that success in the initial target identification stages would be followed by further collaborative work to validate the targets and develop new compound screening assays.

“We appreciate the opportunity to partner with Families of SMA”, said Dr. Brian Pollok, CSO and VP of Invitrogen's Drug Discovery Solutions business unit. “Families of SMA is a committed family group that has been at the vanguard of forming productive industry/academic drug discovery programs.”

“It is exciting to think that Invitrogen technologies, such as the ProtoArray™ or Stealth RNAi platforms, could lead to the discovery and validation of novel protein targets responsible for the pathogenesis of SMA,” said Dr. John Printen, R&D Director at Invitrogen's Drug Discovery Solutions business unit. “Identifying protein targets of chemical modulators can be quite challenging. However, the ProtoArray™ protein chip platform is ideally suited for this approach, as we can rapidly scan for proteins that bind to compounds shown to up-regulate SMN levels. We hope that identifying and validating the intracellular targets for these compounds will ultimately lead to the rapid development of a drug to help treat SMA.”

About Invitrogen Corporation:

Invitrogen Corporation (Nasdaq:IVGN) provides products and services that support academic and government research institutions and pharmaceutical and biotech companies worldwide in their efforts to improve the human condition. The company provides essential life science technologies for disease research, drug discovery, and commercial bioproduction. Invitrogen's own research and development efforts are focused on breakthrough innovation in all major areas of biological discovery including functional genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics and cell biology -- placing Invitrogen's products in nearly every major laboratory in the world. Founded in 1987, Invitrogen is headquartered in Carlsbad, California, and conducts business in more than 70 countries around the world. The company globally employs approximately 4,800 scientists and other professionals and had revenues of more than \$1 billion in 2004. For more information, visit www.invitrogen.com.

About FSMA:

FSMA is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization based in Libertyville, IL. It was founded in 1984 by parents of children suffering from SMA. FSMA is the largest international organization dedicated solely to eradicating SMA by promoting and supporting research, helping families cope through informational programs and support, and educating the public and the medical community about SMA. The organization has more than 24 chapters worldwide and more than 5,000 member families and is a founding member of the International Alliance for Spinal Muscular Atrophy. FSMA has funded \$25 million towards SMA research, and has already committed an additional \$15 million. For more information visit the website www.curesma.com or call 1-800-886-1762.

Forward Looking Statements

Certain statements contained in this press release are considered "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and it is Invitrogen's intent that such statements be protected by the safe harbor created thereby. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to: 1) Initial stages of this collaboration will be preformed by Invitrogen scientists utilizing the company's proprietary ProtoArray™ protein microarray technology; 2.) Any further collaborative work to validate the targets and develop new compound screening assays. Such forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Potential risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the risks: a) The use of Invitrogen's ProtoArray may not ultimately identify biological targets that are linked to the causes and symptoms of Spinal Muscular Atrophy, as well as other risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in Invitrogen's Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

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