

PheneX Pharmaceuticals AG

Press Release

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PheneX AG launches RE-PheX™, a new software tool to mine the human genome for transcription factor control elements

RE-PheX™ complements PheneX offering for Nuclear Receptor Research assets

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PheneX Pharmaceuticals AG today launched RE-PheX™, a novel software tool that enables scientists to mine the human genome for control elements of certain transcription factors, in particular Nuclear Receptors. RE-PheX™ is available from PheneX AG (www.phenex-pharma.com) in different forms of licenses. The software comes as a easy-to-install CD-ROM with the respective program and human genome database and runs on every standard desktop PC. Regular updates of genome sequences and software features will be provided.

"RE-PheX™ is a very valuable tool for the *in silico* prediction of response genes which are regulated by a given transcription factor", explains Dr. Ulrich Deuschle, VP of Research Biology at PheneX AG. "Within our research projects on different Nuclear Receptors we wanted to mine the human genome for all genes which are controlled by a given Nuclear Receptor. Nuclear Receptors are a special subclass of ligand-controlled transcription factors and valuable drug targets. If you want to understand the physiology of a given Nuclear Receptor and even more the pharmacology of a drug that targets this NR, it is highly desirable to identify all genes which are controlled by this particular receptor. Nuclear Receptors have the advantage that they bind to well-defined distinct response elements (REs) in gene promoter regions. Therefore, it was a logical step to develop a software piece that automatizes the algorithmic search for these response elements for the entire human and other genomes (**R**esponse **E**lement analysis from **PheneX** = "**RE-PheX**"). But this

search is not restricted to Nuclear Receptors, basically it works for every transcription factor with a distinguishing sequence recognition motif," continues Dr. Deuschle.

Dr. Claus Kremoser, CEO of PheneX comments: "We regard RE-PheX™ as a very useful stand-alone software tool for everyone engaged in the analysis of transcription factors. In addition it nicely complements our Nuclear Receptor Resource (NRR™), a unique clone and assay collection which encompasses more than 3000 recombinant DNA constructs. NRR™ is the basis for our offering of fee-for-service projects to the pharma and biotech industry in the field of Nuclear Receptor Research. We can provide screening assays, recombinant proteins and other tools as well as service projects such as compound cofactor profiling or compound Nuclear Receptor selectivity profiling. We believe that RE-PheX™ will not only generate revenues for PheneX but even more will strengthen our reputation as an innovative and reliable research partner in the Nuclear Receptor field."

About PheneX:

PheneX Pharmaceuticals AG was founded by six former senior scientists and executives from the drug discovery unit of LION bioscience AG together with Prof. Dr. Günther Schütz from the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg. The company focusses on the identification and analysis of novel selective drug candidates that target Nuclear Receptors using its *SNuRM*™ technology (= **S**elective **N**uclear **R**eceptor **M**odulators = SNuRMs). PheneX is solely owned and financed by its founders and generates revenues through research collaborations with international partners from the pharmaceutical and biotech industries.

The *SNuRM*™ -Technology combines automated protein interaction analysis with Nuclear Receptor specific gene expression analysis. Nuclear Receptors are generally known as excellent drug targets. With some Nuclear Receptors the unusual phenomenon can be observed that the same ligand at the same receptor can be stimulatory as well as inhibitory, depending on the chemical nature of the ligand and the tissue environment. Classical Nuclear Receptor targeted drugs tend to yield a good efficacy for their main indication at the cost of potentially severe adverse effects (e.g. estradiol for hormone replacement therapy or cortisol as an antiinflammatory glucocorticoid). PheneX' *SNuRM*™ -Technology analyses the molecular effects of different compounds at the targeted Nuclear Receptor and thereby contributes important information to the design of novel selective drugs with much less adverse effects.

Links: <http://www.phenex-pharma.com/>
