

Centrose Announces Issuance of Drug Discovery Patent

MADISON, WI. March 25, 2008 – Centrose LLC, a company focused on “making drugs better” through the use of novel sugar chemistry, announced today that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has issued yet another patent (7,348,309) that the company exclusively licensed through the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF). The patent entitled “Glycorandomization and production of novel vancomycin analogs” is used by Centrose and the University of Wisconsin to discover more effective weapons toward drug resistant strains of bacteria. Just last November, the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced that it would fund a joint effort between the University of Wisconsin and Centrose focused on optimizing this proprietary drug discovery methodology.

The invention that led to issuance of this new patent was discovered by Centrose co-founder and UW-Madison Professor Jon Thorson and was initially published in the journal *Nature Biotechnology* in 2003. In order to manufacture multiple drug leads in a cost effective manner, enzymes were found that allow the specific attachment of novel sugar molecules to older drugs in order to create better drugs. At the outset, the invention led to the discovery of new drugs found to be more active against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) than the drugs they were made from.

Centrose is using this unique technology to find new therapeutics that can attack and kill a list of bacteria that are resistant to front line antibiotics. Drug resistance is having a profound effect on the health care system. The ability of an increasing number of bacteria and viruses to ward off even the most aggressive anti-infectives is driving up health care costs. More than 70% of the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to at least one of the antibiotics most commonly used to treat them. A national study released by the Association for Professionals in Infection and Epidemiology (APIC) found 46 out of every 1,000 hospital patients were either infected or colonized with MRSA. This rate is between eight to 11 times greater than previous MRSA estimates.

The ease of creating new anti-infective compounds is enabled by this and other proprietary methods that Centrose owns. The technology portfolio, is allowing Centrose to build its proprietary drug discovery platform called CarboConnect™. CarboConnect brings together automation, targeted sets of sugars and enhanced biochemistries to rapidly manufacture and screen exciting new drug leads.

“We are very excited that what we believed to be inventive is now verified by the USPTO”, said James Prudent, Ph.D., chief executive officer of Centrose. “We are finding that these breakthrough chemistries can enhance a wide variety of drugs and are giving Centrose broad product capabilities.”

About Centrose LLC

Centrose, a Madison Wisconsin based biopharmaceutical company, is applying scientific breakthroughs in sugar chemistry to the discovery, development and commercialization of small molecule therapeutics. Centrose employs CarboConnect™ technology for the attachment of any sugar molecule to any compound. Sugars are involved in almost every aspect of biology and play fundamental roles in drug action. Several small-molecule drugs like erythromycin (a commonly used antibiotic) or doxorubicin (a commonly used anticancer) contain sugar linkages. It is the sugar linkages that bestow drug activity. Modifying existing small-molecule drugs with sugars has been shown to improve drug activity. Centrose's proprietary sugar technology enables the rapid enhancement of a wide variety of important drugs in a one-step process with manufacturing scalability. Centrose owns a broad set of patents and patent applications issued and filed by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and The Sloan Kettering Institute.

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