



***Tethis establishes a collaborative project with European Institute of Oncology, Milan (EIO) to validate its ImmunoCell-Array technology for the analysis of novel putative biomarkers in cancer***

**Milan (Italy) Dec 12, 2008** --- Tethis s.r.l., a Genextra company developing nanostructured thin layers for biosensor, diagnostic and drug discovery applications, today announced the successful completion of a collaboration with the EIO for the validation of a novel microarray-based analysis in biomarker discovery. Through this collaboration Tethis and EIO have evaluated novel proteins as putative markers for the identification and staging of a number of cancers. Just utilizing minimal amounts of cells and antibodies, Tethis' novel ImmunoCell-Array technology is able to simultaneously analyze and compare expression, status and localization of multiple protein targets in patient cell lines.

"A rigorous statistical evaluation has been applied to this study in order to demonstrate the excellent performance of Tethis' technology, compared to conventional tissue microarray and immunofluorescence assays normally performed in patient cells, for the multiplexed analysis of our protein targets: we could simultaneously compare the expression and localization of our putative biomarker in many patient cell lines with the advantage of miniaturization of the assay and precise data analysis" said Prof. Myriam Alcalay, Head of Functional Genomics, IFOM-IEO Campus.

"The collaboration was aimed at validating our ImmunoCell-Array technology as a novel high content, multiplexed and cost effective method for the identification, analysis and follow up of putative biomarkers in cancer. There is a tremendous need for multiplexing information of protein targets in patient cells with robust array based technologies " said Dr. Roberta Carbone, Tethis' Biotechnology Program Leader.

"We are extremely excited for the results of the collaboration with EIO for the development of novel approaches for cancer biomarker identification. This agreement highlights the significant progress we have made with our platform and reflects the strong working relationship we have developed with EIO over the years" said Massimo Gatelli, General Manager of Tethis, "We look forward to forming many more collaborations in order to further validate our approach."

**About the Immuno-Cell Array**

The ImmunoCell-Array is a cell-based technology for multiplexed protein measurements of protein content and localization in relevant cellular model systems and patient cells, relying on the realization of immunofluorescence microarrays: the technology has the potential to evaluate proteome dynamics by integrating temporal and spatial data into a comprehensive proteomic profile, in a cellular context.

Many different data like kinetic of protein abundance, post-translational modifications, cellular localization, protein-protein interactions and relationship with cellular structures can simultaneously be acquired and analysed with fully automated multi-parametric analysis.

**About Tethis s.r.l.**

Tethis s.r.l. is a privately held company active in the bio- and nanotechnology fields, committed to the development of novel nanostructured thin layers to apply to innovative tools for environmental monitoring, diagnostics and drug discovery. In addition to topical

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ImmunoCell-Array, the company is advancing the development of a novel diagnostic device for genome investigation. Tethis is controlled owned by Genextra S.p.A., a private biopharmaceutical group headquartered in Milan primarily dedicated to the discovery and development of innovative therapeutics for the cure of cancer, age-related and metabolic disorders. Beyond Tethis, Genextra develops its programs through three other subsidiary companies: Congenia, DAC and Intercept Pharmaceuticals.