



Proteomics International

LABORATORIES LTD

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PromarkerD diabetic kidney disease diagnostic test validated by EU peer-reviewed scientific journal

Proteomics International Laboratories Ltd (ASX: PIQ) (PILL) announces the publication today of the data underpinning its PromarkerD diagnostic test for diabetic kidney disease. The publication follows an independent review and provides an important verification of the test and its global applicability.

The study has been published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *EuPA Open Proteomics*, the official journal of the European Proteomics Association (EuPA).

The journal article proves the efficacy of the process used to develop and test PILL's PromarkerD protein 'fingerprint' that detects the onset of kidney disease in patients with diabetes, to produce a novel diagnostic test that outperforms the current gold standards (the ACR and eGFR tests).

Kidney disease is one of the major complications of diabetes and affects approximately one-third of all adult diabetics. More than 500,000 Australians will have diabetic kidney disease by 2040, with dialysis already costing more than \$100,000 per person per year.

Globally the diabetes epidemic cost health systems \$673 billion dollars in 2015. Today there are 234 million people living with diabetes in China, India, the USA, Brazil and Russia alone, according to the International Diabetes Federation. Worldwide this number is forecast to rise to 642 million people by 2040, and 214 million people are predicted to get chronic kidney disease as a result.

"If we can stem this health crisis tsunami by identifying and treating people before they are symptomatic we are saving lives, as well as billions of dollars in health costs," said Dr Richard Lipscombe, PILL's managing director.

PILL is at the forefront of using proteomics technology to diagnose disease worldwide, and has already been granted patents for PromarkerD in Australia, China, Russia and the USA.

Dr Lipscombe said publication of PILL's diagnostics platform technique that uses proteins to detect disease represented an important validation step and followed evaluation by independent scientific experts. "Going through the peer review process in this way means our method is independently verified," he said.

"We welcome the high level of scrutiny that comes with the publication process and are delighted to announce yet another endorsement of our diagnostic platform. It helps puts our work in front of global licence partners, as we commercialise PromarkerD."

The paper, titled "Comprehensive Mass Spectrometry Based Biomarker Discovery And Validation Platform As Applied To Diabetic Kidney Disease", is available online to researchers around the world, and can be accessed at www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212968516300393.

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PromarkerD - a predictive and diagnostic test for diabetic kidney disease

PromarkerD can diagnose diabetic patients already suffering from chronic kidney disease that the current gold standard tests miss.

Critically, PromarkerD can also predict the onset of disease before clinical symptoms appear. In an extension of the published work 576 patients were followed in a four year prognostic clinical study. The results of this have shown PromarkerD can correctly predict 95% of the previously kidney disease-free diabetic patients who go on to develop chronic kidney disease. There is currently no available test for predicting the onset of diabetic kidney disease.

About the Promarker Platform

PILL's diagnostic research is made possible by the company's proprietary biomarker discovery platform termed Promarker, which searches for protein 'fingerprints' in a sample. This disruptive technology can identify proteins that distinguish between people who have a disease and people who do not, using only a simple blood test. It is a powerful alternative to genetic testing.

The technology is so versatile it can be used to identify fingerprints from any biological source. The Promarker platform is also being applied to the asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma, the gastro-causing parasite *Giardia* (in partnership with a US veterinary company), and endometriosis, a condition that affects one in ten women in their reproductive years.

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About Proteomics International Laboratories (PILL)

PILL (ASX: PIQ) is a medical technology company focused on proteomics – the industrial scale study of the structure and function of proteins. In the last few years, proteins have become the drug class of choice for the pharmaceutical industry because of their intimate role in biological systems. Thus proteomics technology is now playing a key role in understanding disease, from finding new diagnostic biomarkers to determining drug targets, and discovering new biopharmaceutical drugs.

PILL is recognised as a global leader in the field of proteomics. It received the world's first ISO 17025 laboratory accreditation for proteomics services, and operates from state-of-the art facilities at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in Perth, Western Australia. The Company's business

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model uses its proprietary technology platform across three integrated areas, each massive growth markets:

- 1. Diagnostics:** Biomarkers of disease and personalised medicine - focus on diabetic kidney disease.
By 2020 the biomarkers market is estimated to double in size to \$45.6 billion, and the personalised medicine market is forecast to be worth over \$149 billion.
- 2. Analytical services:** Specialist contract research fee-for-service model – focus on biosimilars QC.
The global biosimilars market is expected to reach \$6.2 billion by 2020, almost trebling from its 2015 level, as it seeks to replicate the multiple billion dollar blockbuster drugs that are coming off patent.
- 3. Drug discovery:** Therapeutic peptide drug discovery - focus on painkillers and antibiotics.
The global peptide therapeutics market is currently estimated to be worth \$18 billion and is expected to increase by over 10% per year during 2016-2025.

In combination these areas offer, respectively, medium term products, near term cash flow, and blue sky potential by harnessing one complementary workflow centred on proteins.