



Proteomics International

LABORATORIES LTD

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Proteomics applies Promarker platform to gastro-causing parasite

Perth life sciences company Proteomics International Laboratories Ltd (PILL, ASX: PIQ) has successfully applied its biomarker discovery platform Promarker to the parasite *Giardia*.

- PILL maps samples from the gastro-causing parasite *Giardia*.
- Giardiasis is one of the most common waterborne diseases worldwide.
- Secures commercial funding and Federal Entrepreneurs' Programme grant to help commercialise the test.
- PILL to receive a royalty stream from net sales for any diagnostic test.

PILL used the company's proprietary technology to map samples of the gastro-causing parasite, searching for protein 'fingerprints' that can distinguish between different strains.

The proof-of-concept study was conducted in collaboration with Murdoch University and on a fee-for-service basis with a leading US veterinary company. This collaboration will now be extended with the aim to develop a commercial diagnostic test for *Giardia*, and a licence agreement is in place to ensure PILL receives a royalty stream from sales of any test.

The next stages are to assess the commercial viability of the protein fingerprints discovered and produce the components necessary for an ELISA (antibody-based) test, which can be performed in any pathology laboratory.

PILL will conduct the development on a fee-for-service basis and with support of a \$45,000 grant from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science Entrepreneurs' Programme. This Federal Innovation Connections programme supports collaborations to implement new ideas with commercial potential.

PILL managing director Dr Richard Lipscombe said the ultimate aim of the project was to find fingerprints for specific strains of *Giardia* in pets, and then identify if those strains can cross from animals to humans.

"*Giardia* infection causes an illness called giardiasis, in which the parasite attaches itself to the gut wall," he said. "It's common in dogs, and while it's unfortunate for the animal it becomes a more serious issue if the infection can spread to humans. "Current tests are not always accurate and Proteomics International is seeking to apply its Promarker platform to better detect and identify *Giardia* strains."

There are more than four million pet dogs in Australia and 78 million in the US, where dog owners spend on average US\$1436 on their pets every year, according to the Companion Animal Parasite Council. A US study of more than 16,000 dogs found 16% were infected with *Giardia*.

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Dr Lipscombe said symptoms of giardiasis in humans include diarrhoea, abdominal cramps and nausea, and can last for months. "It is one of the most common diseases worldwide that's carried by water, and more than half of all cases involve infants and children under the age of five," he said.

Dr Lipscombe said the Promarker platform is so versatile it can be used on any biological source. It has already been used to successfully develop a test for diabetic kidney disease, known as PromarkerD, which is currently being commercialised in Central America and China. PILL is also using the Promarker platform to investigate biomarkers associated with endometriosis and mesothelioma.

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About Proteomics International Laboratories (PILL)

PILL (ASX: PIQ) is a life science company focused on the area of 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 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 at 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.

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