

Japanese Patent Office Issues Human Metabolome Technologies, Inc., Patent for Method of Measuring Ethanolamine Phosphate

Tsuruoka, **Japan**, Nov. 22 - Human Metabolome Technologies Inc., a metabolite discovery company, has announced today that the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) has issued Japanese patent number 5372213 titled: "The biomarker of depression, the measuring method for the biomarker of depression, and the program and storage for the diagnostic method" to the company for the discovery of biomarkers for depressive disorders. Ethanolamine Phosphate (EAP) and the diagnostic method for its detection were discovered by HMT in collaboration with Dr. Noriyuki Kawamura.

The purpose of the present invention is to provide: a method to diagnose patients with major depressive disorder by measuring single metabolic compounds, for example ethanolamine phosphate (EAP), in blood samples. By using this method, the doctor can diagnose major depressive disorder with 82% sensitivity and 95% specificity.

"HMT has been creating a comprehensive patent portfolio for depressive disorders, oncology and other applications. The issuance of this patent supports our overall intellectual property strategy and we continue to pursue additional patent applications in support of our diagnostic programs", said Tsutomu Hoshiba, President, HMT America.

About Human Metabolome Technologies

Human Metabolome Technologies, Inc. (HMT) is a Japan-based biotechnology company providing capillary electrophoresis mass spectrometry based metabolomics services. HMT's primary business aims to provide complete solutions for metabolomics research in biomarker discovery, drug design, diagnostic technology, and food production. HMT was founded in July 2003 by Professor Masaru Tomita, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Advanced Biosciences (IAB), Keio University, Japan, and by IAB's Professor Tomoyoshi Soga, Ph.D. The company has been awarded government funding from the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization. HMT has also established a number of partnerships, including Agilent Technologies, Inc., Mizkan Group Corporation, Ajinomoto Co., Inc., and Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation in Japan.

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