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Press Release January 21, 2009:

**SmartGene and the German Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS Enter
Collaboration on a Nationwide Networking Database
for HIV Genotyping Data**

January 9th, 2009: Zug, Switzerland - SmartGene, a provider of innovative services for the management and analysis of genetic data, announced that it has entered into an agreement with the German **Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS** to provide the technical infrastructure and expertise for a nationwide network and shared database for HIV gene sequences and related data for research purposes.. Under this collaboration, the **Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS** will utilize SmartGene's Integrated Database Network System (IDNS™) and data collector, to build an interactive, networking database to address, for example, HIV drug resistance prevalence and how to improve drug prescription guidelines.

Drug resistance testing by sequence analysis of the viral genome has become routine in the clinical care of HIV infected persons. Careful surveillance of how HIV builds resistance against commonly used drugs is important, in order to assure long-term efficacy of treatment and to avoid unnecessary complications for the patient. A nationwide network, where the viral genetic information can be collected and analyzed under various aspects of current and future science, is of primordial importance to assure that treatment guidelines are kept up-to-date and that trends towards resistance can be recognized and mitigated before harming patients.



The data-network technology and data collector provided by SmartGene to the **Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS** is based on proprietary technology which has been proven in other similar networks over many years. It will assure the easy online collection of data from leading German laboratories through a secured network and provide state-of-the-art bioinformatics tools for analysis and interpretation of HIV drug resistance and viral genetics. SmartGene's capabilities in networking HIV sequence data are already used in national networks in Switzerland and Belgium.

"The German **Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS** is an important customer to us, with regard to its needs, size and potential," said Stefan Emler, CEO of SmartGene. "We think that our technology will enable the German **Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS** to reach milestones in providing important information timely to researches and physicians, enabling them to constantly improve the care given to patients. New insights into viral genetics will be discovered earlier with a nationwide surveillance and this will prompt rapid adjustment of recommendations and guidelines to better manage HIV infections as a chronic but treatable disease".

About Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS (Competence Network HIV/AIDS):

The **Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS** for HIV/AIDS (<http://www.kompetenznetz-hiv.de>) is a nationwide, interdisciplinary scientific network of researches, clinicians, patients and NGOs, founded in 2002 by the German Ministry for Education and Research. Its aim is to foster research into all aspects of HIV/AIDS in Germany. Many important researchers are involved with the network,. Based on its integrating approach, translational research, from basic sciences to medical practice, is the main focus.

As the central scientific structure, the **Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS** runs a patient cohort, consisting of data of more than 15,000 patients, who are treated in clinics and by private practitioners all over Germany. Clinical, biomedical and sociodemographic data, as well as serum samples, are collected on a semi-annual basis, and other biomaterials on demand. In addition to the ongoing documentation, a resistance module was implemented, covering gene sequences and resistance tests for participating patients in the context of HIV treatment.

Prof. Brockmeyer, speaker and chairman of the **Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS**: stated: "We use the SmartGene software to collect, store and analyse gene sequences and for HIV resistance testing. The high level of expertise from SmartGene assures us an efficient structure to handle the data of many collaborating centres. On that basis, we are able to conduct nationwide and complex scientific projects.



In the context of a cohort study, it is important that the technical solutions allow integration of new scientific knowledge. We are happy to see that SmartGene's services accomplish this very well."

About SmartGene:

SmartGene is a privately-held company based in Zug Switzerland, providing web-based services worldwide through its subsidiaries in Lausanne, Switzerland and Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. SmartGene's proprietary Integrated Database Network System (IDNS™) platform offers customers integrated suites of functionality to facilitate sequence-based analysis for a variety of applications from infectious pathogens to human genetics. Constant updates to reference data and interpretive algorithms keep SmartGene's customers in step with evolving science and improve the accuracy of sequence interpretation. SmartGene's integrated services increase the speed to definitive result for sequence-based analysis and improve workflow in the laboratory. Current modules from SmartGene address Bacteria, Fungi, HIV, HCV, multi-locus sequence typing (MLST) for epidemiology of bacteria and viruses (including food and environmental pathogens), and HLA genotyping. Future applications will address human genetics. Discover more at www.smartgene.com.