

## **Bayer HealthCare and Protagen sign a contract to evaluate the UNlarray<sup>®</sup> technology**

**Dortmund, Germany and New Jersey, USA, December 3, 2008.** Protagen AG announces the closing of a cooperation contract with Bayer HealthCare AG, Leverkusen, Germany, about the evaluation of the UNlarray<sup>®</sup> technology for discovery of novel biomarkers in atrial fibrillation.

Bayer HealthCare is currently investigating atrial fibrillation after heart surgery in a clinical study. A certain number of patients develop this type of cardiac symptoms after surgery. Currently, it is not possible to predict the patients at risk of developing atrial fibrillation. Aim of the proof-of-principle study is to evaluate the UNlarray<sup>®</sup> technology for discovery of novel biomarkers for patient stratification and predictive diagnosis of atrial fibrillation.

UNlarray<sup>®</sup> of Protagen is a proprietary technology platform to develop novel diagnostics based on indication-specific autoantibody patterns in blood samples from patients. These autoantibody patterns are not only present in several autoimmune diseases, but also in cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, and even in apparently healthy individuals. Therefore, the systematic and indication-specific determination of autoantibody patterns will serve as a unique basis to address hitherto unmet diagnostic needs. In addition UNlarray<sup>®</sup> serves as platform for the development of product specific companion diagnostics and patient stratification for clinical studies. Protagen presently is focused on research at novel diagnostics for Prostate Cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, Morbus Parkinson, and Alzheimer's Disease.

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### **About Protagen AG**

Protagen AG ([www.protagen.de](http://www.protagen.de)) is a leading provider of products, services and software solutions for protein research with sites in Dortmund, Germany, and Chester, New Jersey, USA. Technology innovations of Protagen are UNlclone<sup>®</sup>, a patented platform for development and use of protein expression libraries, and UNlchip<sup>®</sup>, a versatile and highly efficient family of products for the development of antibodies, as well as UNlarray<sup>®</sup>, unique technology base for the development of new diagnostics.

### **About Bayer HealthCare AG**

The Bayer Group is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of health care, nutrition and high-tech materials. Bayer HealthCare, a subsidiary of Bayer AG, is one of the world's leading, innovative companies in the healthcare and medical products industry and is based in Leverkusen, Germany. The company combines the global activities of the Animal Health, Consumer Care, Diabetes Care and

Pharmaceuticals divisions. The pharmaceuticals business operates under the name Bayer Schering Pharma AG. Bayer HealthCare's aim is to discover and manufacture products that will improve human and animal health worldwide.

Find more information at [www.bayerhealthcare.com](http://www.bayerhealthcare.com).

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